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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

**FBIS-AFR-94-238
Monday
12 December 1994**

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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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PTA Countries Meet in Malawi, Create Comesa

Comesa Treaty Ratified

MB0412211994 Harare Zimbabwe National
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800
GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The secretary general of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Comesa, Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika, has announced that the treaty setting up Comesa has finally been ratified by 11 member countries.

The ratification ends the 12-year era of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa, PTA, which has been replaced by Comesa.

Mr. Wa Mutharika told reporters in the Malawian capital, Lilongwe, that the ratification marked the end of the PTA and the beginning of Comesa. At the last PTA heads of state and government summit in Kampala, Uganda, it was decided that a minimum of 11 member countries should ratify the Comesa treaty before the PTA changes fully into Comesa.

The 11 countries that have ratified the treaty are the Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Zimbabwe [words indistinct] the treaty.

Zaire Admitted as 20th Member

EA0812202594 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania
Network in Swahili 1700 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The treaty on Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa, Comesa, became effective after 12 countries ratified it. To become effective the treaty had to be ratified by 10 countries. Announcing this in Lilongwe, Malawi, today, President Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, the outgoing chairman of the Preferential Trade Area, which has now been replaced by Comesa, said that the 12 countries which ratified the treaty are Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Burundi, The Comoros, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. He further announced that Zaire had been accepted as Comesa's 20th member state. [passage omitted]

President Mwinyi proposed to the summit that President Bakili Muluzi be the chairman of the Comesa for the next year. President Mwinyi returned to Dar es Salaam this evening.

Lesotho Elected Vice President

MB0912075994 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1600
GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The senate meeting of the newly-established Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa [Comesa] in Lilongwe, Malawi, elected Malawi as the current chairman of the organization, with Lesotho as vice president [as heard].

Ethiopia was elected rapporteur. A report from our reporter who is covering the summit meeting said the meeting was taking place in the vast presidential palace built by former President Kamuzu Banda. The meeting saw the transformation of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa, PTA, into Comesa. Speaking after Malawi's election as the current chairman of Comesa, the president of Malawi, Mr. Bakili Muluzi, said past achievements of the PTA would serve as an inspiration to the three member-countries of the Comesa bureau—namely, Malawi, Lesotho, and Ethiopia. Opening the summit, President Muluzi said he had earlier said that Comesa should be used as a tool for real economic integration.

The acting Prime Minister, the minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable Molapo Qhobela, is attending the summit meeting accompanied by a delegation consisting of the Honorable minister of trade and industry, Mr. Shakhane Mokhehle, and senior government officials.

Cooperation Schemes Agreed Upon

EA0912211094 Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting
Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The summit of the heads of state and government of the Common Market of the Eastern and Southern African Authority, Comesa, has ended in Lilongwe with the leaders agreeing on a wide range of issues aimed at promoting and sustaining the objectives of the new organization.

The leaders, among other things, agreed to collaborate in such areas as customs, trade and information, transport and communications, agriculture, industry, energy, and environment.

On agriculture, the leaders called for urgent measures to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture in view of the current drought which has affected many countries in the region, thereby affecting food security in the region. In addition, the heads of state and government stressed the need for harmonizing agricultural policy within the region, so as to increase food productivity. The leaders stressed that food security is of paramount importance to the region, which, they said, required closer coordinated policy and joint action.

Closing the summit, the chairman of Comesa, His Excellency the president of Malawi, Mr. Bakili Muluzi, thanked all delegates for their active participation and contribution to the summit. He said as a new chairman of Comesa he will try his best to lay the foundations for the implementation of the priority programs as set out by the heads of state and government.

Earlier, the prime minister of Mauritius, Mr. Anerood Jugnath, said the survival of Africa depends on regional cooperation. He said the [word indistinct] Comesa was indeed in the right direction. He then called on the member states to work together with renewed dedication for the success of Comesa.

OAU's Salim on Rwanda, Zaire, Peacekeeping

LD0712214194 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Interview with OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim by correspondent Alain Chango; place and date not given; first paragraph station introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The guest of *Afrique Soir* is the OAU secretary general, Salim Ahmed Salim. He has just made a five day visit to Congo, to Brazzaville, where he met representatives of the government and of the opposition. Mr. Ahmed Salim expressed regret at the mistrust and suspicion between the two sides. Alain Chango asked Mr. Ahmed Salim why the OAU seemed to be pushed to one side when it came to resolving some conflicts in central Africa, in particular Rwanda and Zaire. His answer:

[Begin recording, in English with superimposed French translation] [Salim] In fact, the two examples you have given are incorrect. Let's take the case of Rwanda: The OAU was in Rwanda long before the UN. The OAU was involved from the beginning of the crisis, and in a consistent way for three years. From 1992-3 we had contingents, both civilian and military, on the ground. We were involved, along with the Tanzanian Government, as a facilitator, and in cooperation with the governments of the sub-region, we helped in the elaboration of the Arusha peace accords.

When the time came for these Arusha accords to be implemented, the OAU, with the agreement of the UN, handed over its services to the UN for the implementation of the Arusha accords. In fact, in October 1993, I myself went to Kigali to (?oversee) this handover and the departure of our contingents under the command of a (?Nigerian) general.

Therefore, we accomplished our mission. So to say that we were pushed aside over Rwanda is not right. Unfortunately, we all saw what happened afterwards, the subsequent tragedy for which everyone bears a share of responsibility.

I would add that [word indistinct] the Rwandan tragedy, when troops were being sent to Rwanda, there were some difficulties in finding troops outside Africa. And the OAU worked hard to try to get together forces inside the continent. But we were thwarted by problems of logistics and finance.

Let me now take the case of Zaire. Before the nomination of a special envoy of the UN secretary general, I went there and during my stay in Zaire in January-February 1993, I had discussions with the government and the opposition, and even with President Mobutu, to try to find how we could make a contribution.

So we have made efforts. But of course our capacities are limited by our lack of resources.

As for African [words indistinct] we are in the process of improving our capacity for intervening in a rapid and decisive way.

[Chango] At the recent Biarritz summit, the African heads of state proposed the creation of an intervention force. Do you think the OAU [words indistinct] such a force?

[Salim] First, I cannot comment on the idea of a pan-African force as such as discussed in Biarritz, since the question has not been raised or discussed in our OAU bodies. But Africa must be prepared to deploy troops in order to contribute to the efforts aimed either at preventing or at settling the conflicts raging in our continent.

Africa must be ready to act either in the framework of the UN, or in the framework of the OAU. As far as troops are concerned, we have no lack of them in Africa. So, as for a peacekeeping capability, we do have that, but what we don't have is the logistics and the finance, and I would even say the structure which would enable us to react rapidly and effectively should we feel the need. [end recording]

Eritrea

Government Severs Ties With Sudan

EA0612083094 *Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya* 0400 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea has said that the Government of Eritrea has severed diplomatic relations with the Government of Sudan as from yesterday evening, 5 December.

The Eritrean Government has severed the diplomatic relations it had with the Government of Sudan. The Eritrean Government has been making efforts since liberation and its subsequent declaration as a sovereign state to build with all its neighbors, and in particular with the Government of the Republic of Sudan, a relationship based on brotherhood and cooperation. Although ties were developing satisfactorily with all its neighbors, the relationship with the Islamic Front-led Government of Sudan could not develop in a way that would enhance the mutual benefits of the peoples of the two countries. This was because of negative measures being taken by the Islamic Government of Sudan which is opposed to the peace, security, and stability the people of Eritrea are currently pursuing.

For our part, we have made diplomatic efforts to sort out the misunderstanding created by the Sudanese Government in a bid to salvage relations from further deterioration.

While on one side all these efforts have been made and all diplomatic alternatives have been tried and have failed, on the other, the Sudanese Government has continued to engage in negative activities which have affected our people and country, and this has begun to hinder the members of our diplomatic mission in Sudan from carrying out their diplomatic duties. The Government of Eritrea, therefore, declares that it has severed the ties it had with the Government of Sudan starting this day, 5 December.

[signed] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea.

Ethiopia

Constituent Assembly Ratifies Constitution

EA0812202094 *Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia International Service in English* 1630 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Constituent Assembly ratified at midday today the future federal democratic Constitution of Ethiopia. Representatives of the country's nations, nationalities, and peoples adopted the Constitution, which they deemed could give lasting

solutions to questions that in the past had driven peoples to armed struggle. The delegates said violation of human and democratic rights, particularly the suppression of the demands of nations, nationalities, and peoples for self-determination, had forced the Ethiopian people to wage a struggle and sacrifice their lives.

Members of the assembly observed a minute's silence in memory of what they described as the sons and daughters of Ethiopia who, they said, had fought oppressive regimes to ensure respect for human and democratic rights of nations, nationalities, and peoples. Delegates greeted with applause and cheers the final adoption of the basic law, which they said was scrutinized and endorsed over the past six weeks.

Coal, Oil Shale Discovered in West

EA0912123294 *Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia International Service in English* 1630 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Institute of Geological Studies has announced the discovery of 41 million tonnes of coal and over 100 million tonnes of oil shale in two localities in Ilubabor zone of Oromia, Western Ethiopia. [The] head of the institute's coal and oil shale research division, Mr. Minaye Betru, said the discovery was a result of an effort to find alternative sources of energy to wood and petroleum. He said the institute had earlier discovered an estimated deposit of 20 million tonnes of coal in Chilga locality of North Gondar zone in northern Ethiopia, [and] 1 million [tonnes] in a valley of North Shewa, central Ethiopia, and in Nejo, Welega zone of western Ethiopia.

Mr. Minaye said, as a trial exploitation, 700 tonnes of coal had been mined from the (Delbi) and Moye localities of Ilubabor zone and used by the Gilgel Gibe hydroelectric power station. When the exploitation of the minerals begins, tobacco and soap factories, furnaces, and other factories can use coal and oil shale as sources of energy. He said the coal also could be detoxified and be used for household needs.

Somalia

Anti-Egal Forces Said To Hold Most of Hargeysa

EA1212101594 *(Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Great Somali People in Somali* 1700 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the Somali National Movement [SNM] for the northwestern regions, Colonel Ahmed Mireh Ahmed, released a statement on the current security situation prevailing in those regions. He then reported on what led to the recent fighting which flared up in Hargeysa and its surrounding areas.

Colonel Ahmed Mireh, answering questions from reporters at his base in Hargeysa recently, said that the

problems caused by the provocations of some elements which claim to lead a nonexistent government, and who have turned a deaf ear to voices of reason and reconciliation, have resulted in death and destruction.

He added that 75 percent of the Hargeysa is in the hands of the SNM forces, and that those who started the fighting have fled to Gabileh.

Colonel Ahmed Mireh Ahmed added that the fighting was caused by elements who had selfish interests and who had launched an attack on SNM bases. The base commanders had been forced to defend themselves and the respect and dignity of the people, and particularly of their supporters. These selfish elements have refused to listen to the voices of reason, especially to a call by intellectuals and religious leaders from Burco and the surrounding districts who attempted to bring about peace in the area.

The SNM warmly welcomed the attempt by elders to bring about peace, especially in the northwest region. Colonel Ahmed Mireh Ahmed further added that the fighting had brought about friction between the clans and exposed those elements who were yearning for leadership and dictatorship by all means. He added that the Somali people are striving for peace and justice and will not accept anything short of that. Colonel Ahmed Mireh Ahmed called on the SNM fighters to work for peace and justice wherever they are, to remain vigilant and defend their victory, and to restore the name of the SNM to its past glory.

Uganda

Amin's Chief of Staff Returns From Exile

EA0712171194 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1000 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former chief of staff in Idi Amin's regime, Major General Yusuf Gowon, accompanied by 10 senior military officers and 3,000 civilians, last Saturday [3 December] returned home after 15 years of exile in Zaire.

Speaking at a reunion party in Arua, Gowon said that, before returning, he had been assured of peace and forgiveness by the NRM [National Resistance Movement] government, which, he said, already appears genuine.

Speaking on behalf of the former Uganda Army soldiers, Maj. Gen. Gowon said Ugandans should now have a culture of peaceful handover of power to avoid throwing out a whole National Army, if national unity is to hold.

Maj. Gen. Gowon denounced wars and said that he went into exile as a general with people and returned as a general with 3,000 people and another 20,000 are to return. [sentence as heard] He urged officers to get on to the [word indistinct] and settle down. Those who returned with Yusuf Gowon included Maj. (Atib Mududu), Maj. (Moshe Adinebi Amin), brother of former President Idi Amin, Lieutenant Colonel (Amin Lomo) and others.

[Word indistinct] (Kanuna Omar), the presidential aide, who had been coordinating their returns, said the presidential amnesty still holds, and Ramadhan Amin, another brother of Idi Amin, and former Vice President Mustafa Adrisi as good citizens, are as good citizens who returned early. [sentence as heard]

U.S. Accused of 'Sabotage' in Helicopter Deal

MB1112170194 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US has torpedoed hopes of South Africa's Rooivalk attack helicopter winning a R10-billion [rands] order from the British army.

The State Department has banned the sale of a sophisticated anti-tank missile to South Africa. Without the missile the British will not buy the aircraft.

"They are trying to sabotage the deal," said a senior Department of Foreign Affairs official this week.

The blanket prohibition on trade with Denel, the autonomous offspring of the state-owned Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa], stems from a bitter three-year wrangle between Armscor and the US Justice Department.

The US prosecutors are insisting that beleaguered Armscor pays up to R80-million in fines and gives evidence against US sanctions-busting partners who supplied weapons to Iraq in defiance of US laws.

The denial of the laser-guided Hellfire missile, the world's only truly "fire and forget" anti-tank missile, was targeted with pinpoint accuracy as the British insist on it as an essential element of the winning package.

Denel spokesman Paul Holtzhausen said the company would press ahead with the Rooivalk bid despite the latest ban, although it had all but given up hope of it being lifted despite intense lobbying, including talks between chief executive Johan Alberts and former US Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger.

The US sanctions against Denel products, both military and commercial, are costing the company hundreds of millions of rands in lost export sales.

A plea from President Nelson Mandela to US President Bill Clinton to help have the embargoes lifted has had no results.

The cynical elimination of the Rooivalk bid has deepened the bitter rift between the South African arms industry and the US.

The Foreign Affairs source said only concessions from Armscor would satisfy the US prosecutors.

The latest two-month round of negotiations has broken down in stalemate and Armscor's legal team is returning to South Africa for the Christmas break.

US officials this week refused to comment on the Armscor case or the trade plans.

British Military Team Confident of Integration

MB0912151794 Pretoria SALUT in English Nov 94 p 30

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At Wallmannsthal around 7,800 members of the erstwhile military wing of the

ANC are presently in throes of a complicated integration process. The British advisory team under the leadership of Brig Dick Trigger are quietly confident that despite the immensity of the task, successful integration will take place, although spread over a longer period than anticipated.

Col Paul Davis, acting as temporary Commanding Officer of the British tri-service advisory team, confirmed that since their arrival their priorities had changed. "We soon discovered that we were required to act in an advisory capacity rather than organising and implementing training programmes. Our main priority was seen as assisting with placements within the National Defence Force of non-statutory forces and at a later stage, to oversee the period of bridging training."

Since BMATT [British Military Advisory and Training Team] have become involved in the integration process 5,000 applications have been processed out of a total of 27,000. "It is a very delicate task we have undertaken, and we prefer to have our advice asked for rather than proffering an opinion," said the Colonel. "Because it is an unique situation everyone is bending over backwards to be as fair as possible; but because of the numbers involved hiccoughs are bound to occur."

However, it is at Wallmannsthal that the sheer volume of administrative information has proved sorely in need of streamlining in order to speed up the whole process. Representatives from BMATT have been consulted at all levels and are serving on the majority of the relevant boards starting with the vital pre-screening board. Here everyone is interviewed before being moved on to the appropriate section or board.

"Our aim is to get everyone through the system as soon as possible", said the Colonel. "Thanks to the intervention of the Deputy Chief of the Army, Maj Gen F.A. Botha during the last days of September, the situation is looking much better." Col Davis continued, "The General has been instrumental in instigating new guidelines and disciplines to iron out these early problems. It was essential to streamline and simplify what was becoming a very cumbersome process and prone to long delays."

A decision has also been taken that everyone passing through Wallmannsthal will not be deployed before they have received all their relevant documents and their kit and have been paid. Col Davis commented: "You cannot expect people to work for you until they have been paid, and with all the different forces involved this has proved to be a logistical nightmare."

On being asked what members of the BMATT team's initial reaction was to the task before them, the Colonel replied: "When we arrived we were slightly apprehensive at the enormity of the task awaiting us. We felt it vital that we were seen to be totally transparent, completely fair, as well as working towards building up trust on all sides. In the unlikely event that any members of BMATT

are seen to overstep the mark, they will be returned to England where there are people queueing up to come out here."

Amongst the team are three highly experienced women from different arms of the British services. "Their help has proved invaluable in the placing of women and sorting out any difficulties encountered during their bridging training". The Colonel concluded the interview by saying: "I believe that there is the will and enthusiasm at all levels to make this integration process work."

ANC Members Receive Diplomatic Training

*MB0912131394 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans
7 Dec 94 p 14*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ten former ANC foreign representatives and five diplomats from the Department of Foreign Affairs are in the process of completing an intensive diplomatic training program designed to last more than three months.

The program is directed at equipping a group of senior South African diplomats with the necessary expertise linked to the developing needs of diplomacy in the new South Africa, the department said yesterday in a statement.

It also helped with the integration program this department is engaged in.

"One of the unique aspects of the program is that it has brought people from diverse backgrounds and experiences together", the statement said.

These people have now formulated a common idea concerning the role South Africa has to play in the international community. Their joint experiences in the course also places them in a position to advise the department about its role in the community of nations and particularly in South Africa, the statement says.

The Secretariat of the Commonwealth and Germany's Institute for International Development have also contributed to the course by providing international lecturers.

The former ANC representatives who participated in the course are Makhaya Mosia, Cuba; Zolile Magugu, Netherlands; Oupa Mokou, Botswana; Henry Chiliza, Tanzania; Ndumiso Ntshinga, Australia and New Zealand; Ebrahim Salley, Egypt; Mrs. Nozipho Diseko, Sweden; Ismael Coovadia, Malaysia and Singapore; Raymond Mokoena, Zambia; and Sydney Kubheka, Norway.

The other diplomats are Delarey van Tonder, U.S.; Pieter Schabert, Britain; Hennie du Toit, Switzerland; Mrs. Bella Harrison, Israel; and Mr. Eugene Grobler, Japan.

Malaysians on Investment 'Shopping Spree'

*MB0512172294 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES
(BUSINESS TIMES Supplement) in English 4 Dec 94
p 1*

[Report by Zilla Efrat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysians have been on a major shopping spree in South Africa [SA], making investments in local property and companies that already top R500-million [rands]. Further investments, which could run into billions of rands, should follow soon.

One of the latest announcements is a \$100-million investment by Business Focus Group, a rapidly expanding Malaysian conglomerate.

It will take a 70 percent stake in the R200-million Hilton Hotel to be built in Sandton and has reportedly bought into two SA factories.

It is believed that Business Focus is also involved in discussions related to a holiday resort near Hartebeespoort Dam and may participate in a R200-million Hilton Hotel in Durban.

In addition, Landmarks, which ranks among Malaysia's 10 richest companies, is said to be interested in Durban's R850-million Point redevelopment and in developing its new international airport.

This group has already acquired JSE [Johannesburg Stock Exchange]-listed Martin Jonker Holdings for R23.3-million. It has bought 6.96 hectares of land in Midrand for R40-million and will spend far more in developing this into an industrial, commercial and residential estate.

The chairman of Landmarks, Dato Samsudin Abu Hassan, has purchased a Mooi River stud farm with 300 horses and according to a newspaper report, Landmarks has invested R75-million on the JSE.

Renong Corporation, one of Malaysia's biggest companies, recently broke SA records by paying R22-million for a palatial house in Sandhurst, Sandton, which it will use for office premises.

In another deal, Malaysian conglomerate Idris Hydraulics has bought a multi-million rand building in Cape Town which it will turn into a restaurant.

Sources add that Malaysian group Granite Industries has bought a race course in Kyalami and that a large privately owned company, KK Industries is expected to invest in South Africa in a "big way". Its interests apparently lie in property development, warehousing and manufacturing.

Protea Hotels managing director Arthur Gilles has confirmed that discussions have taken place with a Malaysian consortium related to the sale of various Protea Hotels. However, he says a deal is yet to be finalised.

Seeff group managing director Errol Finkelstein says Malaysians, along with Germans, currently rank among the biggest buyers of SA property. Much of their interest is focused on the Durban area.

Both Mr Finkelstein and Malaysian trade commissioner Abdul Kabur Ibrahim confirm that numerous other sizeable deals are in the pipeline.

Mbeki Discusses Need for Government To Produce

MB1112193094 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Dec 94 p 25

[Report on interview with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki by Edyth Bulbring; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some people in government say Deputy President Thabo Mbeki can't take decisions. He talks and talks and at the end you aren't sure what he means or what you wanted in the first place ... and then another meeting is scheduled.

This man, upon whom President Nelson Mandela relies absolutely, has a deceptive style. He is shorter than expected, he uses a pipe as a prop, which creates the atmosphere of a relaxed chat with friends by the fire, and he "ums" and "ahs" in a diffident manner which encourages people to think he is wide open to persuasion.

Those who think they know him call him shrewd. "Strategic" is a word that crops up throughout a conversation with Mr Mbeki.

It is an approach to dealing with problems that Mr Mbeki perfected over years of negotiations where his intervention was critical to reaching a settlement. His style has not changed now that he is in government.

But strategising takes time and Mr Mbeki is the first to admit the time bomb of frustrated expectations is ticking for the government of national unity.

Several months ago, Mr Mbeki cautioned Parliament in his own "wind of change" address that: "Absence of change will, inevitably, lead to a destructive explosion."

Ironically, the two main achievements cited by Mr Mbeki for this year—peaceful elections and the new government's rapid agreement on a broad policy for transformation—have contributed to the pressure on government to implement change.

"The assumption is that if you can handle the transition as well as it was handled by everybody, you therefore have a government ready to change things now.

"If there had been a little bit of disruption, a little bit of roughness in that process of transition, I am sure that people would say: 'Well, we need to allow the situation to settle down, because after all there was a bit of trouble'. But because there wasn't, the assumption is that we are ready the following day to hit the road running," he says.

With hindsight, Mr Mbeki would have handled things differently. The ANC should have anticipated the quick agreement on policy, and prepared detailed plans for change before the elections.

Instead, ministers have been fighting fires, appointing directors general and familiarising themselves with their portfolios.

And all the while, the expectations of the disadvantaged electorate have continued to rise.

It is incredible that an arch strategist like Mr Mbeki should be kicking himself over lack of planning. After all, it was only the NP [National Party] that said the ANC would not sweep the polls.

But apart from being kept busy with the election campaign, preparing a broad policy and trying to avoid violence, the practicalities of government would have made any detailed policy redundant, Mr Mbeki says. By this he means that the finances at government's disposal to deliver a "better life for all" would have thrown out any detailed policy.

Limiting the government's capacity to meet expectations is the 91 percent of the Budget spent on wages and salaries, welfare payments and servicing the government debt. This is unlikely to drop, Mr Mbeki says.

The remaining nine percent of the Budget should be spent "strategically".

"You have got to be very strategic as to how you then use that part of the Budget which would address expectations beyond the three items," he says.

Free health care for pregnant women and children under six is an example.

"It is not a visible thing, it's not like a building or a dam or a tap but it makes an impact on people's lives. It costs money, but it is a strategic intervention. I think it's possible to make those sorts of strategic interventions to begin to show change," he says.

But words are cheap: Can the government effectively implement change? Mr Mbeki's starting point is a clear practical policy. This he says will be translated into legislation within the first half of next year.

Critical to implementing the policy will be the public sector, he says. Motivating the public service towards this goal is his first priority for next year.

"You can have your ministers being applauded by the country for producing clear policy which shows the country where it is going. But if this machinery is not motivated ... then we are going to have lots of problems," Mr Mbeki says.

But first, the wage negotiations—and a possible national strike—will have to be settled.

Mr Mbeki, who has been charged with his other deputy president, F W de Klerk to intervene in the public sector negotiations, wants to achieve three things: no confrontation, no strike and a settlement that will motivate the public service to implement government policy.

It is in situations such as these that the endless talk, the appearance of flexibility, the co-optive style and the examination of the problem from every conceivable angle demonstrates Mr Mbeki's strength.

He will attempt to persuade public servants that they have a stake in capping government consumption expenditure, thus freeing resources to implement change which will better their lives. They will be persuaded that the government is committed to meeting their demands for higher wages as the economy improves.

But he will also ask them to find the money out of the Budget to meet their increased salaries—and then comes the Mbeki sting in the tail.

Should the public service insist on taking from the nine percent earmarked for clinics, schools and water, Mr Mbeki will ask them to take joint responsibility with government in explaining to the country why change cannot be implemented.

"If you are a teacher and also a parent, you must say: 'I would rather that you increase my salary and not build a second classroom, so that my child in that school should be in a less congested atmosphere'—but you must take responsibility for that. We must all take responsibility for that," Mr Mbeki says.

For those who doubt the Mbeki magic, his success in persuading the Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front] to take part in elections and form a council to produce a volkstaat [Afrikaner homeland]—which will probably talk itself to death—is proof of his ability to deal with seemingly intractable problems.

Other priorities Mr Mbeki cites for next year are economic growth, dealing with criminal violence and establishing a regional cooperation pact beyond economic arrangements.

Making visible, meaningful changes is third on Mr Mbeki's list of priorities, after economic growth.

"We must by the end of next year be able to say: there was a squatter camp there, it is no longer there; there was no water in this whole area, now there is; there was this school with no windows and doors, now it is a decent place. There has to be visible change," Mr Mbeki says.

In this major task, Mr Mbeki insists, all the parties in the government should pull together: it is not simply the job of the ANC.

In his "wind of change" address to Parliament, Mr Mbeki told the benches: "What is easy to say about non-racialism, non-sexism and a better life for all may not be as easy to achieve. And yet our integrity, judged on the basis of the honesty of our declarations, must in the end, be tested against what we do in practice."

For the heir apparent to Mr Mandela, the crucial test comes next year.

Article Examines 'Discontent' in ANC

MB0912142494 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
9 Dec 94 p 17

[Article by Mzimasi Ngudle]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Whether Cyril Ramaphosa stands or falls as the ANC's secretary-general will not generate concern during the organisation's 49th national conference next week.

Leadership tussles and jockeying for positions will get no more attention than the post-April challenges faced by the organisation, as Mr Obed Bapela, a spokesman for the ANC PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] region which is one of the most powerful regions, observed.

Whether the organisation remains a liberation movement or opts to become a political party will also not duly concern the 3,000 delegates who will attend the conference. Whatever it calls itself, at the end of the day the organisation will remain the same.

But what is crucial is for the organisation to fight for survival and address threats to its grip on political power. That threat is the erosion of the mandate that put it in political power in April. This mandate now hangs precariously on the ANC's capacity to provide houses, schools, food and health care.

The ANC needs to address post-April challenges to remain in power, and to succeed in next year's local government elections. However, these challenges are not defined with any precision and the content of discussion is likely to be obscured and will probably end inconclusively.

Bland statements like "charting out a programme that will carry the movement for the next ten years" is the kind of talk likely to warp the proceedings. But charting out a programme capable of working even within five years may prove to be a will-of-the-wisp.

Sources identify discontent with party leadership, its level of organisation and democratic processes as posing a serious danger to the survival of the organisation.

Contentious issues arising from this discontent have reportedly not been addressed at regional congresses and will not be a subject of heated debate at the conference.

Sources said this will leave the doors open for ANC bureaucrats to impose ready made solutions to its loyal and compliant leadership. They point out that issues hurting the ANC most will not be hotly debated, as burning issues have been shelved at regional congresses and are not likely to be raised at the national conference.

"Issues threatening the survival of the organisation look certain to be played down at the insistence of certain layers of the ANC leadership," said one source.

For example, the sources say the fate of about 4,000 Umkhonto weSizwe [Spear of the Nation—former ANC military wing] cadres dismissed from the new South African National Defence Force may still remain unresolved at the close of the conference.

The sources say the ANC has, since its unbanning, craftily used its bureaucracy to direct party policy and even silence "internal party opposition" to its policies. They are confident that this norm will pervade throughout the conference.

Delegates to the congress need not be surprised at finding out they came to listen to the master's voice. Already, there are reports that the ANC leadership will be elected under a plan called the "Mandela Initiative", the effect of which will be to override nominations from the ANC regions, the Women's League and the Youth League.

Rumblings of discontent from disillusioned ANC supporters speak louder about collusion between the ANC leadership and big business on one hand, and government authorities on the other. Their objections are heard daily when they stage protest marches, in their letters to editors, on bus and taxi rides, in bars and at parties. While impossible to gauge the extent of such antipathy, it is clear that it is growing in alarming proportions.

There are as yet no distinct groupings from within the organisation which stand up to challenge party policy. However, with the 1999 elections just over four years away, the ANC must be acutely aware of the apathy that slowly grips its constituency. And not least when a very prominent community and church leader like Archbishop Desmond Tutu openly passes a vote of no confidence in the country's popular leader President Nelson Mandela, who is sure to be reelected ANC president at the conference.

In Australia this week, Tutu said bluntly he would be confident of the new South Africa only when Mandela steps down as the country's president. Tutu made the statement at a time when perception was gaining ground that Mandela was overly sympathetic to whites and cared little about blacks.

This perception flows down to ANC leaders in the national and provincial governments, who are seen as merry-makers on a gravy train.

Prominent educationist Dr Gordon Sibiya notes that "certain white people still go about as if they are in control and in charge of us".

Two academics from the University of South Africa, Dr D.L. Mosoma and Professor T.K. Mofokeng, have even suggested that if the ANC continues to marginalise blacks, "serious consideration should be given to the formation of a new opposition party".

Will ANC voters be keen to elect the third layer of gravy train riders when local governments elections are held

next year? The ANC needs to answer this question if it means to pose any serious challenge to the National Party, which has kicked off its campaign in earnest.

In all, the organisation needs to look seriously at its credibility crisis.

It should go beyond its adherence to the bare concept of non-racialism and look at practical measures to uplift poor black communities. This certainly takes more than a goodwill visit by Mandela to squatter communities, who still face the prospect of being bulldozed out of their makeshift settlements.

The ANC's success record in Government will translate to the stability of its extra-parliamentary organisation—which is where the strength of any political party lies. Needless to say, its poor record in Parliament will impact adversely on its structures.

The continuing dissipation of its structures, which is due partly to the exodus of almost its entire provincial and national leadership to Government, is likely to run deeper if delivery of social services is not forthcoming.

As a majority party in the Government of National Unity, the ANC must expedite the implementation of measures such as the Equal Opportunities Bill, address the housing crisis with more vigour and so on.

And, if it cannot be black enough in its cloak of non-racialism, then at least to be less white than it is.

Mufamadi Outlines Policy on Police Promotions

MB0912065694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2118 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria Dec 8 SAPA.—More than 11,000 police officers have been promoted, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi announced on Thursday [8 December].

In a statement in Pretoria he said the promotion of 7,719 black, coloured and Indian and 3,722 white officers had been recommended by an interim board appointed to "scrutinise" promotions due before August 30 this year.

South African Police Services [SAPS] members due for promotion after September 1 this year would "no longer be assessed purely in terms of the promotion policies of the past", Mr Mufamadi said.

They would be evaluated in terms of an interim promotions policy, which would include affirmative action steps such as bridging courses.

Mr Mufamadi said those who had benefited from irregular or "rapid" promotions before the April elections were likely to have their ranks reviewed by a commission to be appointed by President Nelson Mandela in terms of Section 236(6) of the Constitution. The commission would have the power to reverse, alter or confirm the promotions.

Mr Mufamadi said to do justice to those entitled to be considered for promotion and to move to a new promotion system, his ministry had adopted a three-phased approach.

Phase one entailed the latest promotions, recommended by an interim promotions board comprising two representatives from each of the 11 police agencies. The board had invited every police agency to submit the names of those entitled to promotion in terms of the existing system.

Among blacks, Indians and coloureds, 7,114 non-commissioned officers and 605 commissioned officers had been recommended and approved for advancement. The respective figures for whites were 2,554 and 1,168.

"What is clear from the relatively small number of black commissioned officers is that definite affirmative action steps are required to make the officers' corps more representative of our country's population," Mr Mufamadi said.

Phase two related to SAP members due for promotion after September 1 this year. The interim promotions board and a committee on promotions consisting of civilian experts would devise an interim promotions policy for such members.

Apart from affirmative action, the interim policy would include condonation of some of the requirements for promotion.

"This will enable those with merit who were denied opportunities in the past to rise to more senior ranks," Mr Mufamadi said.

In phase three the committee on promotions would recommend a new promotions policy to take effect on January 1 1996.

Mr Mufamadi said provincial MEC [members of the executive councils] and police unions would be consulted in devising the interim and the new promotion policies.

The committee on promotions would consider representations from individual members who believed they had been disadvantaged or discriminated against in the past.

Those feeling they had been wrongfully omitted from the latest list of promotions could also complain to the committee.

Mr Mufamadi said he expected the new police act to be passed by the end of next year, amalgamating the 11 police agencies into the South African Police Services.

Police Union Splits Over Funds, Priorities

MB0312192994 Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN in English 2-8 Dec 94 p 6

[Report by Mduduzi ka Harvey]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) has split, amid accusations that the leadership has given undue priority to police issues, misused union money and failed to resolve internal problems.

The newly formed breakaway group, the Correctional Officers Union of South Africa (COUSA)—launched last week by prison staffers and officials—claims to have 1,500 signed-up members. Seven members of the executive of eight held senior positions in Popcru.

The union's publicity secretary, Kenneth Mthombeni, said footdragging by Popcru and "an indifferent attitude towards the plight of prison workers" had led to the split.

He said problems started during the 1990 Eastern Cape Popcru strike when policemen and wardens were dismissed: When negotiations for the reinstatement of the officers took place Popcru was more concerned about the police, said Mthombeni.

Last month Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi reenlisted 51 of the striking policemen, while Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela was unwilling to follow suit.

Mthombeni dismissed a pledge last month by Popcru's secretary general Nkane Mqwathi that the union would demand a meeting with Mzimela. "We have heard nothing about this issue. Our colleagues are still unemployed. Popcru has failed them," he said.

Referring to Mufamadi's formation of a committee to look into restructuring and promotions in the police service, Mthombeni said: "There have been calls for Popcru to pressurise Mzimela to do the same, but this has been all in vain. Nothing has been done for prisons".

There is also mounting concern about alleged misuse of union dues. Each member pays R15 [rands] and Popcru's membership is estimated at 30,000.

Members say they were astounded by Mqwathi's decision to buy a Camry luxury car, which they claim is for his personal use. "We would understand if a Microbus was bought—it would be more practical to transport members," Mthombeni said.

Members have also accused Mqwathi of buying an expensive house in Berea under the guise that it is a "guest house" for Popcru visitors while he is actually using it himself.

"We are also bothered by the fact that the leadership decided to buy new offices for themselves instead of fixing regional offices, where there are serious problems," Mthombeni said.

Claims were also levelled against the administrators of the union: Popcru members employed by the government were also getting a salary for working part-time at the head office. "At regional level it is unheard of to get

a salary. We had to use our own cars and money to do Popcru business," said Mthombeni.

Tensions intensified in June when Popcru sent a delegation of 10 to Denmark. Said Mthombeni: "We were promised an allowance of R1,500 each for our stay there and assured that our visas would be paid for, but when we got there we had to pay for ourselves and also pay R75 each for our visas. Up to now we don't know what happened to the money."

Mqwathi has denied the allegations. Calling COUSA leaders "a group of undisciplined people who want power", he said: "The issue of the car and the house was not my unilateral decision. It was the decision of the executive. I am only responsible for them. If someone else is elected then they will take over."

He added that money offered to Denmark trainees was not in his jurisdiction and that he had no information on the matter. On members' "double salaries", he said: "It was decided in the NEC [national executive committee] meeting in May that all comrades attached to the national office should get incentives to motivate them. Unless you call R500 a salary."

ANC's Mokaba Reportedly Spied for Police

MB1212085494 Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English
7 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speculation that ANC MP Mr Peter Mokaba may once have served as a spy for the South African security police has resurfaced. The possibility of a link between the securocrats and the former ANC Youth League leader are contained in an article by London-based South African journalist, Mr Gavin Evans. Mr Evans worked underground for the ANC and the SACP [South African Communist Party] from 1980.

Writing in the latest issue of Leadership magazine, Mr Evans states that the ANC acted against members caught out spying for the old South African government. However, there were certain individuals who got off scot-free.

According to Mr Evans, a current ANC cabinet member had told him that this might be attributed to fears by senior ANC members that their own links with the Nats [National Party members] could be exposed.

Mr Evans writes that Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi, had told him that Mr Mokaba had been held by the ANC in Lusaka, where he allegedly acknowledged working with the security police. Mr Mokaba, who has previously rejected all claims that he spied for the police, could not be reached for comment.

Survey Finds Less Enthusiasm for Future

MB0712174294 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1707
GMT 7 Dec 94

[Survey results issued by Sefin Marketing Communications Consultants on 7 December on the SAPA PR Wire Service]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Africans Feel Confident About Future

Although South Africans of all races feel confident about a happy future for all, responses are somewhat less enthusiastic than they were six months ago. This is the finding of the latest socio-political trends survey conducted by the Markinor Research Group among 2,320 South Africans of all races, the majority of whom live in the country's major metropolitan centres. Interviews were conducted in September and October of this year with 1,000 blacks, 640 whites, 240 coloureds and 120 Indians in metropolitan areas, plus an additional 320 whites in non-metropolitan areas. There was an equal split between sexes.

In metropolitan areas, whites were the least optimistic with only 46 percent (down from 81 percent in June of 1994) saying they were very or fairly confident in a happy future for all races, compared to 88 percent of blacks, 80 percent of coloureds and 75 percent of Indians. "There was a drop in optimism among all races," says Mari Harris, Markinor account director. "This is an expected decrease given the tempering of the post-election euphoria that existed at the time of our previous survey."

Economic Situation of Families

A higher percentage of blacks, coloureds and Indians feel that their economic circumstances have improved, compared to their situation prior to the election. The percentage of whites who feel this way, however, has remained about the same as six months ago, and a substantial proportion feel that their situation has worsened.

"Signalling a belief in their future in South Africa, most blacks, coloureds and Indians feel that their families will be even better off in a year's time. Whites tend to be less optimistic; in fact, a high proportion fear a further decline in their families' economic well-being, especially those residing in non-metropolitan areas."

Race Relations

The relationship between the races is seen in a slightly more negative light than six months ago. A higher percentage of South Africans, especially whites and Indians, feel racial relations are deteriorating. Still, they are seen in a far more positive light than they were 18 months ago.

"The largely peaceful birth of a new South Africa fostered a climate of racial reconciliation," says Harris. "But now the euphoria and sense of unity that characterised the days just after the election has decreased—not a lot, but somewhat."

"On the plus side, over half of all race groups believe that relations between the races are improving—an encouraging finding indeed for prospects of nation-building and promoting a common South Africanism."

Direction in Which the Country Is Moving

The majority of all race groups approve of the direction in which the country is headed. Whites and Indians are less enthused, with one-quarter of these groups really troubled by the direction South Africa is pursuing. "One in five metropolitan adults of all races are uncertain whether the country is going 'in the right direction' or not," comments Harris. "This is symptomatic of a society undergoing fundamental changes in character and philosophy."

Full details of this research are given in the November 1994 issue of the Markinor socio-political trends report. Also covered in this volume are: (1) ratings of the new South African leadership and political parties, (2) general confidence in the future and in the relationship between races, and (3) assessment of the government's handling of key RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program] issues. This report is available from Markinor at the cost of R1,900 [rand]. Full tables and tabular results are included.

ANC Elects 2 Chiefs to KwaZulu Leadership

MB0912163494 Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN in English 9-14 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Farouk Chothia]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ANC signalled its intention to prise support from the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] in KwaZulu/Natal with the election last weekend of two traditional leaders to senior positions in the organisation's new Provincial Executive Committee (PEC). Chief Zibuse Mlaba was elected deputy chairman at a provincial conference last weekend, while Chief Elpheus Molefe was elected an ordinary member of the PEC.

Mlaba's victory was remarkable: the push for his election had come from branch delegates. There had been no serious lobbying for him prior to the conference, sources said. A Provincial MP, Mlaba defeated the MEC [member of the Executive Council] for roads and transport, Sibusiso Ndebele, for the job. Ndebele had been the favourite, with the backing of key figures such as incoming chairman Jacob Zuma, the sources added.

Ndebele's defeat was partly attributed to the fact that he is an MEC, and the ANC's rank and file is concerned that this will prevent him from concentrating on ANC activities.

Ironically, both Mlaba and Molefe are closer to the Marxist-Leninist Harry Gwala than to Zuma, a monarchist. The firebrand Gwala has built a long-standing relationship with both chiefs in an effort to strengthen the ANC's support base in rural areas and provided them with strong support when their areas were racked by IFP-orchestrated violence.

Significantly, Gwala declined election to the PEC—in part because he has been overshadowed by Zuma and his radical views no longer hold sway in an increasingly moderate ANC.

Mlaba's rise within the ANC hierarchy is significant: his is the highest position a chief has held in the organisation since the presidential reign of Chief Albert Luthuli.

ANC sources said there was a strong feeling among branch delegates that Mlaba's election—and to a lesser extent that of Molefe (he is a Sotho from northern Natal)—was vital if the ANC is to reverse its April poll defeat in local government elections scheduled for next year.

The sources added there was acknowledgement at the conference that a strong urban following was not sufficient for an ANC victory and that rural areas would have to be penetrated. This was also reflected in the PEC: there was a geographical shift in power away from the predominantly urban southern Natal region to the peri-urban and rural constituencies of the Natal Midlands and northern Natal.

The only southern Natal-based leader to be elected as office-bearer was Zuma. Mlaba is from the Midlands and so is deputy secretary Sifiso Nkabinde and treasurer Zweli Mkhize, while the secretary, Senzo Mchunu, is from northern Natal.

ANC sources gave two reasons for Mchunu's election: he held the post in northern Natal, giving him experience in the field, and he is not a parliamentarian, enabling him to concentrate full-time on rebuilding the ANC.

Mchunu has a task far more formidable than secretaries of other ANC provinces: he will have to spearhead the merger of three regions, which have a history of factionalism and power struggles. He will also have to deal with the fact that not a single, branch, zone or subregion in the province is functioning effectively.

The sources added that the conference had attempted to strike a balance between parliamentary and nonparliamentary representation on the PEC: 12 of the additional members are MPs; nine are not.

The stars of some parliamentarians appear to be on the wane within the ANC. Yunus Karrim, top of the provincial list for the national assembly, failed to be elected to the PEC. By contrast, Rob Haswell—who was not elected to parliament—was voted in as an regional executive committee member with the seventh-highest votes. Haswell's absence from parliament has enabled him to dedicate his energies to local issues, giving him a higher profile in the province.

King Asks ANC To Reconsider Chiefs' Election

MB0812062794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2157 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban Dec 7 SAPA—Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini's royal council on Wednesday [7 December] called on the African National Congress in KwaZulu/Natal to reconsider the election of two chiefs to its provincial executive.

The ANC at its provincial conference at the weekend elected Midlands Chief Zibuse Mlaba deputy chairman and Chief Alpheus Molefe from northern KwaZulu/Natal as the eighth member of the executive.

Royal spokesman Prince Sifiso Zulu said the king's council wanted to reiterate its stand against political partisanship of chiefs and traditional leaders.

"We would like them (the elected chiefs) to stand down, otherwise it vindicates Inkatha Freedom Party allegations that the issue of non-partisanship is directed solely at them," he said.

Recently King Goodwill publicly called on chiefs to extricate themselves from politics, saying the divisions caused by it had cost thousands of lives in KwaZulu/Natal. He subsequently announced a peace and development plan for the province.

"We hope it will prevail on the ANC that the king's peace plan would succeed if supported by all amakhosi (chiefs)," Prince Sifiso said.

He said a forum of chiefs should be called to discuss the issue of those wanting to make a career in politics.

Chief Mlaba on Wednesday said he would consider his predicament.

ANC Takes Top Posts in Greater Johannesburg
MB0812162294 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
8 Dec 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Paula Fray]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ANC last night took the two most powerful positions at the launch of the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC) in a meeting which was often chaotic.

Soweto Civics Association president Isaac Mogase was voted in chairman of the TMC—effectively acting as mayor of a metropolis which includes the previous municipalities of Randburg, Sandton, Johannesburg, Soweto and Roodepoort and their surrounding areas.

The TMC Executive Committee chairmanship went to ANC leader Colin Matjila, whose nomination was unopposed.

Matjila said the executive committee, unlike previous management committees, would manage and steer the metropolis consisting of areas previously segregated.

Another priority was the provision and upgrading of services as well as the promotion of payment for these.

"The time for withholding payment is long gone," he said, adding that the local authorities needed to ensure that its billing systems were in order.

However, missing from the meeting, which many described as a circus, was previous front-runner for the executive committee chairmanship Cas Coovadia.

Coovadia resigned yesterday morning after months of what insiders described as an acrimonious power struggle within the non-statutory side of the TMC.

"Cas Coovadia was sacrificed for the short-term interests of political parties. Also sacrificed was the best chance we had for rapid advances within this Metropolitan Council," said Federal Party representative Frances Kendall.

"In my opinion, the ANC and NP [National Party] had a deal ... and the price for that deal was Cas."

Coovadia yesterday declined to discuss the matter saying "Yes, I've resigned, I will discuss this matter further with the leadership in the alliance." In his letter of resignation he cited "developments" in the last few months.

There were several breaks in the meeting and at one stage Mogase took a break from the chair, citing stress.

But the one point on the agenda which was passed without debate was the appointment of Johannesburg Town Clerk, Professor Nicky Padayachee as acting chief executive officer for the TMC.

Armcor Buys Chemical Warfare Research Firm
MB0912155194 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English
9 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Stephane Bothma]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Armcor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] had purchased a defensive chemical warfare research and development company which would support the Council for the Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction with regard to local implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Armcor MD [managing director] Tielman de Waal announced yesterday.

The deal to purchase Protechnik Laboratories was concluded three months ago, De Waal said, adding that Armcor needed the investment in such a facility because proliferation did not necessarily occur in well-formed and well-shaped missiles or guns only.

Through Protechnik, Armcor would provide specialist technical support to the council, although the Trade and Industry Department was the custodian of the Non-Proliferation Act, he said.

He said SA [South Africa] did not produce weapons of mass destruction and was committed to a policy of non-proliferation. In January last year SA became a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Protechnik manager Phillip Coleman said his company manufactured chemical warfare agents such as mustard gas in limited research quantities allowed by the international convention.

It produced small samples of chemical agents to test protective clothing, air filters and chemical weapons detection systems.

'Major Unnamed' Firm To Unbundle

MB0712151494 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 7 Dec 94 p 18

[Report by Bruce Cameron]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A major unnamed South African corporation is planning to unbundle in order to give a group of important black role-players a significant stake in some of the hived-off companies.

The first hint of the unbundling came yesterday at the annual general meeting of the Cape Town-based merchant bank Board of Executors (BoE).

BoE managing director Bill McAdam declined to name the company, but said it was one of South Africa's majors.

He said BoE was involved in advising the black role-players on the deal, which would have international ramifications and would involve merchant banks from a number of other countries.

McAdam said the purpose of the unbundling was to empower blacks.

The move is likely to eclipse previous black empowerment moves on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

These have included:

- The hiving off by Sanlam of assurance company Metropolitan Life, which formed the foundation of the diversified holding company, New Africa Investment Limited (Nail).
- The separation of African Life by Southern Life and a takeover of control by black-dominated institutions.

The unbundling process was led by mining house Gencor [General Mining Union Corporation]. The Gencor unbundling has been the most significant so far.

Anglo American, which has voiced strong opposition to unbundling, has, however, restructured Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI) in what was seen to be a quasi-unbundling move.

South African Press Review for 9 Dec

MB0912133894

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Harder ANC Party Line Could Dilute Democracy—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 9 December in a page 14 editorial notes that the ANC is "currently redefining its strategies." First, "there is a strong lobby—

to which Deputy President Thabo Mbeki is sympathetic—arguing that racial reconciliation will have to be counter-balanced with the concerns of the black majority. The organisation's influential PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] region is recommending that the ANC remains a liberation movement 'because the liberation of our people is not yet complete.'" Now comes the "'Mandela Initiative', which seeks to ensure that the new ANC leadership will be 'representative of all ethnic and racial groups in the country, as well as both sexes'. The idea is to achieve this without circumventing internal democracy." THE STAR says it is good that there should be this "vigorous exchange of ideas" ahead of the ANC congress, but "'centralised control' and a harder party line on some issues could see a dilution of democracy."

RSA Judgement Questioned in Namibian Debt Write-Off—A second editorial on the same page refers to the decision by President Mandela to write off the 700 million rand "ostensibly owed this country by Namibia." "As it happened one might ask why Mandela chose to use the issue as an apparent endorsement of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] on the eve of Namibian elections." The sum involved was incurred by Namibia but "by the South African administrators of the territory before March 1990. No one expected the SWAPO government to take this colonial debt seriously, so there was a quaint irony in the fact that President Nujoma made it work to his advantage."

BUSINESS DAY

Education Priority—The publication of the White Paper on housing "is a milestone in a vigorous and focused campaign by Minister Joe Slovo to make headway in the monumental task of putting roofs over the people's heads," notes Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 9 December in a page 6 editorial. Like housing, education also required urgent attention, "and it is disquieting that there has not been much obvious change to troubled schooling structures thus far." "There is little clarity on school classification, methods of funding, teacher remuneration, classroom upgrading and strategies for redressing racial imbalances. As the momentous year draws to a close, there is reason to be heartened by some of the country's achievement, but a priority in 1995 must be education."

WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN

SANDEF Decisions Behind Closed Doors Over—"The SANDEF [South African National Defense Force] waited too long before backing off this week from its attempt to seek judicial review of the Cameron Commission's decision to release certain sensitive documents to the public," says a page 28 editorial in Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN in English for 9-14 December. The WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN had already published an earlier version of the same documents, "and by its delaying tactics, the SANDEF had

suffered heavy losses to its credibility as a new South African force." "A crucial debate over the size of the military budget and the desirability of our arms industry is taking place. Thankfully, this is no longer a debate settled solely by men in uniform and their attempt to control the discussion by withholding information is falling apart." The editorial hopes the military notes that "its days of making self-interested decisions behind closed doors are over."

NEW NATION

Call for Probe Into Activities of 'Murder Squad'—Johannesburg NEW NATION in English on 9 December in a page 8 editorial points out that there is "a democratic government in power now" and "we need not repeat the insensitive and dispassionate treatment accorded to past revelations of the bloody deeds of the Vlakplaas murder squads and covert army units." NEW NATION believes the affidavits revealed in the past week "provide sufficient evidence to launch an immediate investigation into the bombing of COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] House and Khotso House." Investigations into the activities of all those involved "must be pursued without delay. And, if senior members of the current cabinet are implicated, they too must be jailed and brought to trial. Where there is insufficient evidence, government officials, police, and other civil servants implicated must be removed from their posts until their innocence or guilt can be conclusively proven."

Lack of Accommodation—A second editorial on the same page says that while there is no justification for the unlawful invasion of buildings, "the continued refusal of landlords to renovate the dwellings is equally unpardonable. If landlords are unable to renovate the flats for financial or other reasons, then government should step in to take over that responsibility." "The fact that neither the government nor the landlords have made any serious effort to ensure that potentially decent and affordable accommodation is made accessible mitigates in favour of the homeless."

BEELD

Perceptions of Failure Danger Sign—A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans of 6 December says "In some overseas circles there is a growing perception that reform in South Africa has lost its way (as the LONDON TIMES put it day before yesterday). This implies that the new government has failed and that the euphoria of transition has gone flat, like champagne. We have said in the past that we do not necessarily agree with the pessimistic overseas views of South Africa," but "the perception of failure could be disastrous for this country. It could finally scare off investors and could make this country another promising but forgotten experiment. The most common accusation against the government is weak management." "The government should use the summer vacation to review its management strategy. ANC leaders with known abilities must be involved more effectively, and National Party leaders from the old dispensation who now have new roles must be put to use."

Right-Wingers Wasting Their Time—A second editorial on page 10 says: "If Conservative Party leader Ferdi Hartzenberg and his right-wingers would only take all the energy they expend thinking up more gimmicks, and direct it at participation politics, they would have achieved much more than they have. At the weekend they announced their latest gimmick: a 'freedom flag,' which the Afrikaner National Front plans to use alongside the old Transvaal flag. Actually they have merely designed another flag behind which they can hide from the South African reality, a reality, ironically, symbolized by the new South African flag. Sad to say, this flag gimmick will also fail. It is just another idea from politicians unable to recognize the realities, and to adapt to them."

South African Press Review for 10-11 Dec

MB1112171594

[Editorial Report]

WEEKEND STAR

The recommendations from the Katz Commission of Inquiry into the nation's tax system buck the world trend of lower personal taxes, says the Johannesburg WEEKEND STAR in English in its 10-11 December editorial on page 10. "True, it is only the high-income earners that would suffer, and bashing the wealthy is popular the world over. Yet it is those capable of earning high incomes who are primarily responsible for the country's wellbeing. It is they who are South Africa's most valuable resource." Increasing taxes on the wealthy would create a new "brain drain," according to the editorial. "Economic growth would stall without this resource—and with it any hope of reconstruction and development providing a solution to the ongoing economic malaise."

SUNDAY TIMES

The Katz Commission's recommendations on taxes reflect a "seismic change" in tax policy and society, according to the page 24 editorial in the 11 December edition of Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English. "If implemented, the proposals would signal an end to a system which is inefficient, unfair and increasingly inappropriate, one that has settled a suffocating weight on huge swaths of the productive classes." The commission report sees a new society: "The new society is one in which the primary productive unit is the single person or married working couple, and where discrimination on the basis of gender has no moral or practical basis. Neither should people be rewarded merely for producing children." The editorial dismisses complaints from the wealthy, who would face higher taxes: "The new tax rates are neither crippling nor inappropriate. Measured against the urgent need for a more equitable tax system, they are indeed essential."

Angola**Government Criticizes U.S. Declaration***MB0912200794 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 9 Dec 94*

[Communique issued by the Government of the Republic of Angola in Luanda on 9 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Republic of Angola has viewed with astonishment and concern the statement by the U.S. State Department dated 7 December 1994. The declaration referred to the alleged presence of foreign mercenaries in Angola contracted by a South African firm, Executive Outcomes. The Government of the Republic of Angola declares that there is no single mercenary in its service in Angola and stresses that the military contracts it signed with that firm only involve an insignificant number of advisers for the training of personnel in specialized fields. This fact cannot in any way hinder the implementation of the Peace Accords and does not fall under the concept of mercenaries as defined by the United Nations. The Government of the Republic of Angola, therefore, deplores the U.S. State Department's precipitate attitude, which in no way contributes to the clarification of the present situation in Angola. It feels that, unless there is a deliberate intention to create an additional embarrassment to the Angolan Government, this issue could have been easily clarified at the bilateral level. The Government of the Republic of Angola reiterates its firm commitment to the ongoing peace process and national reconciliation.

Further Speculation on Savimbi's Disappearance*MB1112164794 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Dec 94 p 12*

[Report by Christopher McDougall]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Angola's master guerrilla fighter has pulled his greatest vanishing act in 30 years—but this time the whereabouts of Dr Jonas Savimbi may mean the difference between war and peace.

Six months ago the bombastic UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader was dominating rebel radio, storming in motorcades through the streets of his captured capital of Huambo and threatening tit-for-tat against the government army that had bombed his house.

Then, silence. Since August, Dr Savimbi's men have been beaten off the battlefield, agreed to a truce, signed a peace treaty and sent a delegation to the capital, all without a peep from their once spotlight-hungry leader.

Rebel troops and civilians in Huambo say they haven't seen Dr Savimbi since July. The sole outside observer to see Dr Savimbi since then was UN special mediator Alouine Blondin Beye, who held a meeting with the

UNITA leader somewhere in Huambo province in October. After the meeting, Mr Beye would only say that Dr Savimbi was healthy.

A UN official briefed by Mr Beye said Dr Savimbi was very preoccupied with his security. "Of three hours of talks, they spoke for two-and-a-half hours about security for Dr Savimbi," he said.

According to military observers in Luanda, only fierce UN and international pressure is holding the Angolan government forces from taking advantage of UNITA's apparent lack of leadership and pushing its troops ahead to an armed showdown.

So where is he? UNITA says repeated government assassination attempts have driven him underground. They offer as proof the five ton, unexploded bomb still lodged in the basement after crashing through Dr Savimbi's Huambo house.

However, people in Luanda believe Dr Savimbi is underground—for good.

Rumour of Dr Savimbi's death are daily fare in Luanda, seasoned by stories from returning front-line soldiers who claim to have seen his body, his grave, or heard the death confessed by rebel prisoners.

The circumstances may vary, but the general consensus among Savimbi watchers is that the UNITA leader was killed some time during the government's offensive that started in September.

A Savimbi double has long been in the rebel camp and is ready to step into the master's boots—according to the most popular theory—but he hasn't yet managed to perfect Dr Savimbi's sometimes booming, sometimes shrill voice.

"There have been pictures of this double for years, some with him right next to Dr Savimbi—you can't tell them apart," said army Private Elias Santos. "But you can tell Savimbi's voice in a second—that's why they don't dare put him on the radio."

UNITA prisoner Major Manuel Brio said this was the first time in 19 years that a month had passed without running into Dr Savimbi somewhere. The UNITA leader also failed to address the faithful on his birthday, an event celebrated annually for 19 years with speeches lasting half a day.

Aid workers and civilians in Huambo, who were regularly summoned for Savimbi appearances, said they, too, had not seen him since July. [passage omitted]

Government Said Trying To Retake Negage*MB1112210594 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 11 Dec 94*

[From the "Ultima Hora" program]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] movement has said there has been a series of clashes with government forces in northeastern Angola. UNITA said government troops were trying to recapture Negage in Uige Province, where there is an air base. Government forces recaptured the capital of Uige Province last month. UNITA has accused the government of a series of violations of the cease-fire signed in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, last month. UN officials in Luanda admit the existence of clashes after the cease-fire but describe them as minor incidents.

MPLA Said Executing UNITA Militants in Namibe

*MB1212093694 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo
Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 12 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Namibe Province say the Angolan Government Security Services are executing National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] militants detained in 1993. The Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel [Vorgan] has learned those executions have been carried out by death squads in Benteaba Jail. Sources have told Vorgan that to kill war prisoners is a war crime which contravenes the spirit and letter of the Lusaka Accord. UNITA sources have called on human rights organizations—including the various churches—to look into the problem.

Government, Mercenary Firm Reportedly Renew Contract

*MB1212081994 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo
Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 12 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] troops and mercenary forces have left Bie and assembled near Ecovongo. They have received orders to attack and take the area of Chitembo, which is controlled by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. The FAA troops are commanded by Brigadier Simeao Mukume.

Meanwhile, a reliable source in Luanda has told the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel that Brigadier Nico van der Berg is the supreme commander of the mercenaries contracted by the Executive Outcomes company, which is operating in Angola. Brig. Van der Berg was a specialist paratrooper and is based in the Angolan capital.

This report effectively denies the Angolan Government's claim that there were no mercenaries in Angolan territory. The source added that the mercenaries have military bases in Cabo Ledo, (?Menongue), and Saurimo. The commanders of the bases are, respectively, (Chris Bruin), who is also a paratrooper; (Sam Conant); and (Duncan Lykaart), whose speciality is reconnaissance commando forces. [passage omitted]

The source also reported that the contract between the Angolan Government and Executive Outcomes was renewed for another year. The contract is worth slightly more than \$40 million. [passage omitted]

UNITA Reports Nationwide Attacks by MPLA

*MB1212075594 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo
Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 12 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Angolan Government still appears to be committed to war. This was disclosed by sources on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] General Staff. The sources told the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel [Vorgan] over the weekend that the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] have been involved in combat operations that endanger the Lusaka protocol. The sources say the FAA forces have been carrying out their operations in Uige—where they have been particularly serious—Malanje, Benguela, Huambo, and Moxico Provinces, adding that those operations exceed what might be described as difficulties inherent to the implementation of the cease-fire agreement.

Vorgan correspondent Clarindo Caputo reports on ongoing FAA violations despite the deployment of UN observers in those areas:

Northern region:

1. The military situation in Uige Province has been deepening since 7 December. Over the last few days the government forces have brought in reinforcements and deployed them in the city of Uige. The government has flown in from Caxito the forces in the FAA's 10th and 105th Regiments, along with war materiel. Such operations are continuing and growing in intensity. The FAA forces are constantly engaging in acts of provocation along the lines held by the UNITA forces, and there are clear indications that they intend to advance in the direction of Negage at any time. As evidence of such provocative maneuvers, the government forces abducted eight UNITA soldiers from their lines on 7 December. The UNITA forces are sticking to their stance of maintaining peace and are avoiding incidents at all costs. Such movements by the FAA forces enjoy the UN Angola Verification Mission's [Unavem] complicity. Unavem has already set itself up in the city of Uige, but it alleges it is not in a position to intervene at this stage, adding that it will only be able to do so two months from now.

2. The government forces that reoccupied the area of Lombe, west of the city of Malanje, on 3 December have since intensified their combat patrols north and south of that area. The FAA forces attacked a position held by UNITA troops on 7 December, even though the UNITA troops were behind their defensive lines on the outskirts of Lombe.

Central region:

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On 8 December, the government tried to move a motorized column from the city of Lobito to Bocoio. It has already deployed its forces in the area of (Culano), while other forces are making progress in the direction of Pundo, an area under UNITA's control.

It is worth noting that the government troops stationed in Bocoio District have intensified their operations and taken certain areas, as announced in our latest communique. Such movements may yet aggravate the military situation along the Bocoio-Lobito axis. The aforesaid column could violate the defensive lines of the UNITA forces stationed in Pundo, thereby contravening the terms of the Lusaka accord.

The government troops in Cachiumbo and Bela Vista have been reinforced with one battalion and have received four armored cars from the city of Bie. Meanwhile, intensive reconnaissance operations are continuing in the areas of (Vila Nova) and Bailundo. Also on 8 December, an Ilyushin-76 aircraft unloaded 16 tonnes of assorted war materiel in the aforementioned areas. This report has been confirmed by people living in those areas who had to help move the parachuted war materiel to storage points.

Civilians residing in the outlying areas of Cachiumbo and Chinguar also reported on 8 December that the government forces set fire to the villages of (Sacambuilho) and Sauala, some 20 km south of Cachiumbo (?and) Bela Vista. The FAA forces raped women and stole the people's possessions. The FAA forces also killed five civilians, including two women who had been raped. Three FAA reconnaissance groups were recognized as they neared the UNITA defensive lines in the area of Chipipa, 22 km north of the city of Huambo.

Eastern region:

The FAA forces intend to move from the city of Luena and reoccupy the areas of Lumege, east of the city, and Canage, to the south. To that end, the FAA forces have been involved in intensive reconnaissance operations in the direction of UNITA defensive positions.

[Signed] Office of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola General Staff

[Issued] Huambo, 9 December 1994

Mozambique

Chissano May Announce New Government 16 Dec
MB1212055294 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the Republic Joaquim Chissano says he may announce the names of the members of the new government on 16 December. The Mozambican head of state said that in an interview

he granted Mozambique Television outside the proceedings of a prayer session the Mozambican Christian Council dedicated to him yesterday.

Namibia

Early Results Give Nujoma, SWAPO Victory

MB1212105694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1043 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Windhoek 12 Dec SAPA—A victorious President Sam Nujoma arrived home in Windhoek in Namibia on Monday [12 December] to say his overwhelming election victory was an expression of trust and confidence in his ruling SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] party.

Final results of Namibia's two-day presidential and parliamentary elections last week are due on Monday night, but provisional tallies give Mr Nujoma and SWAPO more than 70 per cent of the vote.

Its new majority gives the party the power in parliament to change the constitution, which Mr Nujoma said could not be expected to continue forever without amendment.

"The constitution is a document which always has to be amended in the interests of the people," he said, but he pledged to consult Namibians through a referendum if his government wanted to make changes.

"As democrats who brought freedom and independence to this country we will go to the Namibian people to seek their mandate if there are clauses which need to be changed. There is no constitution which remains forever."

SWAPO's four years and eight months in power since independence had given it the opportunity to assess Namibia's economy and resources and the focus in future would be on fishing, food production and education, Mr Nujoma told SAPA in an interview.

"For the next five years we will concentrate on agriculture, animal husbandry and marine resources. Education will remain a priority. We have uneducated and untrained manpower which we inherited from apartheid colonialism and we can not talk about development without trained and skilled people," he said.

SWAPO's economic planning was intended to make Namibia self-sufficient in food production and adding value to its raw materials.

Mr Nujoma said his government planned to establish a copper processing plant "so we can produce cable wire, radio and televisions".

Government would also concentrate on the provision of better health care, housing and drinking water.

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Nujoma Pledges Referendum Before Changing Constitution

MB1112132794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1220 GMT 11 Dec 94

[Report by Jonathon Rees]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Windhoek Dec 11 SAPA—President Sam Nujoma, whose party looks likely to win a two-thirds majority after elections last week, pledged Sunday to call a referendum of all Namibians before changing the independence Constitution.

He told Namibian Broadcasting Corporation News that SWAPO's [South-West African People's Organization] Politburo would decide on whether the Constitution should be changed and then consult with the country. SWAPO and Mr Nujoma swept aside the opposition in the two-day poll and, with all provisional results announced, had scored more than 70 per cent in both presidential and parliamentary elections. This gives it the power in the National Assembly to unilaterally amend the Constitution.

Final results, expected on Monday after the counting of up to 100,000 tender votes, would likely follow the earlier trend, election organisers said. Mr Nujoma, speaking in the coastal resort of Swakopmund, called on all Namibians, including the opposition, to work together to combat poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance in the interests of the nation. Education and unemployment would be his government's priorities for the next five years, he said.

With provisional results still expected from one constituency, Mr Nujoma had polled 71.5 per cent of votes to serve what the independence Constitution states must be his last term of office. Analysts have suggested that

SWAPO could be keen to amend that clause to allow Mr Nujoma to run for president again in 1999.

Opposition leader Mishake Muyongo polled 25.8 per cent in the presidential election. His DTA [Democratic Turnhalle Alliance] party had by Sunday polled 22.3 per cent, with the United Democratic Front [UDF] trailing on 2.81 per cent.

A victorious Mr Nujoma thanked Namibians for their "overwhelming support", and promised to tackle the country's social and economic weaknesses. "We are fighters. We are manufacturing weapons and ammunition against the new enemies...They are poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance," he said on Saturday.

Elections Director Prof Gerhard Totemeyer expressed satisfaction with the whole election process, saying he expected the final turnout to exceed 70 per cent. "Forecasts of voter apathy did not materialise."

The Namibian Parliament looks likely to have just three parties next year, SWAPO, the DTA and the UDF. Observers said proportional seat allocations could narrowly give one of the 72-seats to the Monitor Action Group [MAG], a lobby for group rights and ethnic identity. [passage omitted]

DTA Chairman Unlikely To Dispute Results

MB1212084394 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the opposition DTA [Democratic Turnhalle Alliance] party in Namibia, Mr. Dirk Mudge, says his organization is unlikely to dispute the result of the general election unless there is concrete evidence of irregularities. Mr. Mudge was reacting in an interview with the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] to reports that the party could refuse to accept the election result. He said an official statement would be issued today.

Cote d'Ivoire

President Bedie Discusses Current Issues

AB0912142094 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television
Network in French 2040 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Address by President Henri Konan Bedie in Abidjan on 6 December—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear compatriots, friends of Cote d'Ivoire: Cote d'Ivoire celebrates its national day today and I am happy to tell you that this affords me the opportunity to announce to you that there is cause for great hope. I assure you that our country is making a successful recovery and that there are better days ahead. I enjoy you to fully share in this hope.

None of us has forgotten nor will forget all too soon the terrible and cruel ordeal we went through a year ago with the death of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, the father of the Ivorian nation and our beloved guide. Ivorians on that occasion overcame their profound affliction and as a united people succeeded in presenting a picture of perfect harmony to the world. Burying their superficial differences, Ivorians regardless of their ethnic origins, gave a remarkable example of unity. In return, the entire world present at the funeral rites of the exceptional leader, demonstrated the very high esteem it had for the deceased and expressed great confidence in the maturity displayed by the Ivorian people. By your comportment, you dissipated the negative rumors being circulated by those who are pessimistic about Africans and raised the level of consideration for Africa in the hearts of all those who have doubts about our continent's future.

The clear provisions of our Constitution immediately permitted our public institutions to continue to function without any friction thanks to the support and loyalty of each of you. At that time, our economic situation was undergoing a shock treatment and any further traumatic handling would have had dramatic consequences. You all understood the situation and you formed a common front as the situation demanded—just as I knew you would do—and I express my very sincere thanks to you for this. A lot of additional suffering was thereby avoided and the reversal of the situation which threatened us could not come off. Since the ailment has not been eliminated, painful remedies are still necessary. Your composure and understanding have enabled us to continue with the necessary treatment. We immediately settled down to handle the situation steadily and there has since been no respite. We have also made some progress toward recovery which allows us to enter a period of positive convalescence.

Before accomplishing my duty of taking stock of what has been achieved over the past year—how we intend to continue with our actions and the future prospects—I would like to pay due and well-deserved tribute to our prime minister, who under my direction pursued this

policy with exceptional devotion to the tasks assigned to him. I will also extend my thanks to his entire team and our Administration, which is so easily and too often decry for its ability to exert the efforts demanded of it. I will also thank the administrative staff who have proved that they are capable of putting the national interest far above their professional and legitimate ambitions.

On the occasion of this national day, I do not want to digress much from speaking about our country and the prospects in store for each one of us. I would, however, like to cite only three international events which, aside the unanimous testimonies of esteem we received during the funeral ceremony of our illustrious predecessor, demonstrate the high consideration we enjoy from the international community. These are the OAU meeting where we occupied a prominent position, the official trip organized for your president by the Republic of France on the occasion of the French national day, and the election of our foreign minister as chairman of the UN annual general meeting. These honors, which the international community bestows upon us, should increase our joy during the celebration of our national anniversary. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire's economy is growing, and is getting stronger daily, as a result of this newly adopted policy, along with the possibilities that it offers for a strong and durable recovery through strict compliance with a financial management program and coherent reforms, in addition to an increased consideration for our social well being. The devaluation of the CFA franc adjusted the value of this currency to our capacity of exploiting our considerable natural resources and our trade capacity in an open economy. The economic and financial program implemented at the time was aimed at relaunching growth without excessive price increases, redressing the balance of public finances, regularizing the state's obligations with respect to its domestic and foreign debts, attracting investors, pursuing public sector reform, and giving a fresh impetus to social development.

All initial indicators show that these objectives have been attained in our present situation. Our export sector has been revitalized. There is increasing, sustained internal growth. Local industries are already benefiting from price adjustments, and have resumed the maintenance and renewal of their equipment. Public resources have attained their projected levels, operating expenses have been controlled, and investments have been boosted. Tax revenue has increased without taxes being increased and has, on the contrary, made it possible to institute important customs tariff measures.

The reinstitution of export taxes on coffee and cocoa has not adversely affected substantial producer price increases. Government workers' salaries have been increased considerably for lower-income earners. After 1 January, all beneficiaries in the public sector will enjoy a substantial increase in their transportation allowance—

from 500 CFA francs to 2,000 CFA francs. The objective of public investments, worth 165 billion CFA francs, will be attained. The adopted three-year program will be a marked support to the agro-industrial, mining, and energy sectors. The particular priority given to education is further reinforced in this program.

The measures taken to promote our economy's competitiveness are preparing—apart from satisfying general national needs—the country's development, through the private sector, into a regional development magnet—which it will become. I have personally ensured the enactment of a vast economic and social program with national funds, which is aimed at supporting individual initiative, and this system is already operational.

On the external front, renewed international confidence enabled us to get almost 600 billion CFA francs in assistance in 1994. These debts, which were written off by the Paris Club, when added to a return of capital, will enable us to pay our still heavy foreign debt of over 500 billion CFA francs this year. The program for the payment of our restructured internal debt was honored. At the end of the year, outstanding discounted bills will be decreased by 70 billion CFA francs, and it will be possible to accelerate the payment of the remaining amount according to provisions in the budget under discussion.

Approved of by the political authorities since its creation, reduced in number but equipped and well-trained, our national Army has suffered greatly since 1991 from the limited amount of available funding for maintaining equipment and training personnel. For a year now, considerable efforts have been made to rationalize the management of resources through policies on structures, personnel, equipment, and finance. Regarding equipment, the help of friendly countries was decisive. Surveillance of the Liberian border required from our armed forces an effort that they were able to make efficiently, despite the difficulties that this mission entailed.

Regarding the Interior Ministry, we must retain legislative reform of an exceptional nature, which has either been approved or will soon be approved, on the electoral code, a municipal organization, and a statute for towns and intermunicipal associations.

A general revision of the voters register, with the participation of all political parties, is currently in progress. Great efforts have been made to handle the Liberian refugees issue. Political overtures continue. The number of authorized political parties has reached 82 since the formation of the Rally of Republicans party. This means that they have not been barred from engaging in active politics; each of you can attest that the press, the radio, and television are widely open to them.

First, I chose to reduce the social disturbances, and this had the effect of restoring a relatively peaceful atmosphere which enabled negotiations to forestall numerous

or wild demands. The daily crime rate first called for the mobilization of security agents for law and order maintenance operations. The devaluation of the CFA franc forced the underprivileged to turn to a cheaper, second-hand market and this increase in demand was capitalized on by delinquents who offered household appliances, vehicles, and spare parts—items of their booty—for sale.

Reduced to a ratio of one policeman to 2,000 inhabitants, the law enforcement agents were without the basic working tools. The crime rate shot up by 11.2 percent in 1993. The robbery of firms, business houses, and private homes increased by 15 percent but in 1994, the police and the Gendarmerie shot and killed 63 proven robbers and seized 65 weapons of various calibers. The fight against drugs led to a fall in the activities of traffickers owing to prevention and repressive measures put in place with the help of friendly countries and international organizations. Police raids were resumed with renewed intensity.

A fresh crime wave involving highway robbers is escalating. Measures are being taken to check it in conjunction with the Gendarmerie Nationale. The coming year will witness a more intensified drive against crime. The recruitments required for the purpose and the opening of new police stations are imminent. The necessary resources will be made available as soon as possible. Everything possible will be done to guarantee the security of the people.

For the Ministry of Justice, objectives aimed at a speedier administration of justice and an improved judicial profession have been relentlessly pursued. Directives were issued for the regulations governing emergency procedures. Appeal courts had their staffing position improved and the government has authorized the recruitment of 50 judges yearly over a three-year period.

Working tools were provided, including a first endowment of vehicles. Serious lapses still remain, particularly at the General Services Inspectorate. The relevant measures to end the obstacles to promotions were examined. Very important documents were adopted, including those on the revision of the Constitution and the setting up and organization of the Constitutional Council, to mention but a few. [passage omitted]

The proportion of court cases handled varied between 41 percent for those concerning minors and over 92 percent for civil, commercial, or administrative lawsuits. A lot still remains to be done, but what great progress made in less than one year.

Government action in the agricultural and animal resources sectors ensured continuity of the program earlier embarked on within the framework of the country's short term economic recovery plan. The major phases of the period under review are as follows:

First, there was a substantial increase in producer prices due to global price increases, as well as the positive effects of the CFA franc devaluation. Thus for the 1994-1995 harvesting season, the purchasing price of cocoa on the plantations rose from 200 CFA francs per kilo to 315 CFA francs per kilo. The price of coffee rose from 170 CFA francs to 530 CFA francs per kilo and the price of Grade One cotton seeds rose from 90 CFA francs to 150 CFA francs per kilo.

The government increased its efforts to develop the rural sector by establishing national social funds to assist and stimulate production. The sum of 1.25 billion CFA francs was allocated to the fund for the diversification and promotion of agricultural exports. The fund for the promotion of animal production also received 450 million CFA francs; 1 billion CFA francs was allocated to the agricultural security fund, and 1.3 billion CFA francs was earmarked for the support fund for modern farming.

In addition, specific actions have been undertaken to improve our leading export products to meet the needs of the economy. The amount of coffee produced during the 1993-1994 harvest season was just 148,000 tonnes, a substantial reduction in production as compared to the previous years. A special package of 3.115 billion CFA francs was, therefore, granted to boost production. The amount of cocoa produced was 884,000 tonnes, thereby enabling Cote d'Ivoire to retain its position as the world's leading cocoa producer. In the agricultural sector, the government is striving to improve both the quality and quantity of production by rehabilitating plantations and by introducing the use of choice seedlings at the cost of 15 billion CFA francs.

There are still certain problems at the marketing level. However, the government is endeavoring to solve them by setting up reforms which give preference to purchasing quality products. As a result of these reforms, the rate of substandard coffee was reduced from 35 percent to below 15 percent. Cotton seed production for the 1993-1994 harvest season was 258,300 tonnes, which yielded 115,600 tonnes of cotton fiber. [passage omitted]

Regarding forest management and exploitation, the government's main concern remains the protection of its patrimony, notably through the reorganization of the forest resources management profession. This reorganization has already begun by the reduction of a large number of licensed timber operators. Timber production has also been stabilized to 2 million cubic meters annually. In all, a number of coherent measures and important means have been implemented in the agricultural and animal husbandry sectors which give our country the bulk of its resources. In the future, actions to be undertaken will be included in the 1991-2010 agricultural development blueprint that gives the operational framework of government initiatives. [passage omitted]

Indeed, the negative effects of the world market placed our country in a very difficult situation which started to improve only in 1994. The minister of raw materials

played a major role at international meetings where he defended—often on behalf of all producers—our stands on the coffee and cocoa situations. The results obtained have not been commensurate with our hopes in the field of essential commercial interests where our consumer partners defend their personal interests tooth and nail. They are, however, very appreciable and the price rise in this field has placed us at a sufficiently improved level that permits us to pay our producers much more substantially and also to improve our income. So far, we have succeeded in making the EC maintain the cocoa content in chocolates which is threatened by competition from vegetable fat. [passage omitted]

It is the same ministry that followed with vigilance the situation of rubber and banana, made the necessary interventions, and in this regard as well, the situation has rather improved in the current year. Next year will be the year of midterm negotiations of the Lome IV Convention for which Cote d'Ivoire has prepared and in which it will play the role that belongs to it.

The 1994 review and the 1995 prospects of the mining and energy sector are very rich. The devaluation is a considerable asset for the exploitation of our deposits that it has made competitive. Gold has already become one of our national riches. The Ity Gold Mines Company is already operating and will produce about 20 tonnes of pure gold in 13 years. A total of 1,250 kg was produced in the past 12 months. The production will be increased to 1,500-2,000 kg in the coming years. New discoveries have already been announced or will most probably be announced. The Afema goldmines produced 375 kg of pure gold in the same period.

In the Bouafle Region, the Angovia deposit will be exploited and will produce 1 tonne of gold for eight years. At Agbaou, an interesting deposit has been found and prospecting continues. The same goes for Kocoumbo. The Biankouma-Touba lateritic nickel deposits, for which an investment of 250 billion CFA francs has been earmarked, are expected to give progressively, as of 1996, as much as 90,000 tonnes of ferrous nickel annually and generate 1,500 jobs.

Promising prospecting is going on for the exploitation of manganese deposits in Grand-Lahou and Odienne. In the first phase, annual production of concentrated solution could reach 50,000 tonnes. In the second phase, a steel industry could produce 50,000 tonnes of ferrous-manganese annually in San Pedro.

In the region of Biankouma, a cupronickel deposit alloyed with precious metals of the platinum group has been evaluated and prospecting is continuing. Prospecting continues in several regions. Some interesting clues have been found including diamonds. In all this prospecting, environmental protection is taken into account. In a comparable geological context, Cote d'Ivoire must reach the production level of its neighbors: Ghana, Liberia, Guinea.

In the field of energy, 1994 also opened excellent prospects. The Panther gas deposit was discovered in 1993 and the Lion gas and oil deposit in March 1994. They will cover national needs for 15 years for an investment of 86 billion CFA francs. The Ivorian Refinery Company has continued its activities with a turnover of 160 billion CFA francs and export sales of more than 2 million tonnes of finished products. For the first time, an independent Ivorian distributor has opened a fuel station network in Abidjan. The Ivorian Petroleum Products Company has put domestic gas at the disposal of the public in better trading conditions.

In the electricity sector, the new demand situation has led to the signing of an agreement for the construction of a 165-megawatt power station in Vridi. I personally laid the foundation stone for the project on 24 October. [passage omitted]

Despite the financial difficulties and the exceptional rainfall that disadvantaged some regions, road construction and maintenance works have never stopped. In 1998, our asphalted roads will be longer by 759 km. By the end of the same year 407 km will have been rehabilitated and 43 bridges constructed, all these for an estimated amount of 92 billion CFA francs before the devaluation and not including value added tax. Half of the needed funds has already been secured. [passage omitted]

Concerning rural water supply, tens of billions of CFA francs have been spent, are being spent or will be spent to supply hundreds of our villages with potable water. Let me mention, among others, the financing recently secured or to be secured: Nearly 10 billion CFA francs from Germany as aid, 4.6 billion CFA francs donated by Japan, 11.5 billion CFA francs from France also as aid as well as financing from Belgium, the West African Development Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Entente Council.

In the transport sector, the functioning of the Abidjan Transport Company has been reviewed and its reorganization actually launched. From 1 January to 1 October, the total number of usable vehicles increased from 394 to 472. A comprehensive restructuring will be presented to financiers.

The Ivorian Railroad Company is recovering. Although its goods traffic is yet to regain its past level, the passenger section is growing. Negotiations are under way for its full privatization.

The integration of the water ways system is going on. The Abidjan Port traffic also has not reached its previous level, mainly concerning its use by landlocked countries but the proposals made and the measures taken for more efficiency have made it competitive. These proposals are also expected to have a rapid positive effect on traffic with landlocked countries. The launching of the bonded warehouse on 10 October, which is the first of its kind in

Africa, will facilitate loading. The devaluation has had a positive effect on San Pedro Port's traffic.

Very important negotiations are still going on for the liberalization of Ivorian maritime policy. Since January, the Regional Academy of Sea Science and Techniques is functioning in real terms. It has 746 students, including 30 from the subregion.

The Cote d'Ivoire Telecommunications Corporation has been restructured and its very heavy debt partly paid. The remaining part is expected to be paid in 18 months. Its revenue has improved, while the number of subscribers, which is increasing rapidly, has now exceeded 100,000 lines and the monthly demand stands at 3,000. From all indications, its service has improved. A program of more than 11 billion CFA francs for 1994-1995 will help to meet the corporation's demands mainly by extending the network and modernizing the equipment.

In the town planning sector, the government has continued its social housing policy, by striving to limit the proliferation of makeshift houses, by increasing the restructuring of illegal settlements, and by encouraging private initiatives aimed at constructing low-cost accommodations for the largest strata of the people. [passage omitted]

In 1994 200 primary school classrooms were completed in Abidjan, while the present works will help to construct 100 new classrooms in the interior. Tenders are ready for the construction of 431 more classrooms throughout the country. [passage omitted]

The growing importance of environmental protection prompted the government to formulate a white paper on environmental protection in Cote d'Ivoire this year. It will be submitted to the National Assembly for consideration, after which an environmental action program will be drawn up. Concerning the pollution of our coastal waters and lagoons, the national observation network conducted studies on safeguarding our remarkable heritage. We therefore have to be extremely pleased with the completion in September of an outlet channel to drain off domestic and industrial liquid waste from Abidjan. At the same time, an agreement was signed for the maintenance of the existing drainage system. These two operations will help in part to restore the charm of our economic capital, which had somewhat faded. [passage omitted]

The actions of the Commerce and Industry Ministry were greatly marked by the management of the devaluation. Public service was restructured to improve efficiency, and this is currently continuing in organizations under state supervision. [passage omitted] A chain of supermarkets operated by Ivorian businessmen is in the process of being launched, and modalities for a backup policy for small and medium-sized enterprises have been outlined. A program on the orientation of our industrial policy is now ready for examination at the highest level. [passage omitted] Regarding approval for priority

projects, 19 bills have been examined, 12 reports are ready for consideration, and six others have reached a very advanced level. The approved projects account for more than 53 billion CFA francs in investment, and will create nearly 3,500 jobs. They concern several sectors, including the agro-industrial and timber sectors. Nine of the business operators are Ivorian. [passage omitted]

Several missions have assisted in promoting our external trade. All these actions will be enhanced, and one of the major tasks facing the Commerce and Industry Ministry will be to integrate Cote d'Ivoire into the global trade system that was outlined in the recent GATT accords.

In the area of education, Cote d'Ivoire has opted, since its independence in 1960, for a dynamic policy of training and education centered on the development of its human resources. Huge investments were devoted to school infrastructure and the training of all categories of teachers in ever increasing numbers, until they accounted for more than half the number of civil servants. [passage omitted] Although unfortunately we are unable—because of the crisis we experienced—to fulfill the promise of education for all made in the euphoria of the 1960's, Cote d'Ivoire can proudly project an increase in the percentage of children attending school from 70 to 90 percent by the year 2,000. [passage omitted]

At the social level, the government, as part of its efforts to control graduate unemployment, authorized the recruitment into the civil service of 435 new high school teachers from the National Advanced Teachers Training College and 900 primary school teachers. There is still a need for more recruitment, and there are plans for this in the short-term. [passage omitted]

Concerning the public sector, the government, desirous of coming to the aid of our young graduates, went ahead, despite budgetary constraints, to recruit over the last year close to 1,600 people, including 944 teachers. Other applications are being considered. Correspondingly, it obviously became necessary to reduce the number of civil servants. Thus, a lot of workers were retired for having reached the retirement age or after 30 years of service. Out of the 8,000 cases examined in this regard, about 4,000 have been forwarded to the Retirement Fund for settlement. Furthermore, more than 700 voluntary retirement applications have been received in addition to names being crossed off the civil service register following deaths or resignations. It goes without saying that the combination of these measures will lead to savings of several billions per month, thus contributing to the reorganization of public finances. [passage omitted]

The communications sector is currently expanding and its main feature is liberalization in a competitive context. The Satellite Communications [Comsat] Project, costing over 20 billion CFA francs, aims at ensuring nationwide satellite coverage and enabling the operation of one television channel and two FM stations. It

involves 27 transmitters—including 13 new ones—and will be fully completed in May 1995.

I particularly salute the opening up of Bouna, which used to be in a terribly unfavorable situation. A rural radio program covering Bin Houye, Bouna, San-Pedro, and Tengralla will be operational in January 1995.

A study for putting in place a support fund for the promotion of a multiparty press has been concluded. At a time when national economic recovery requires the participation of all, the Ministry of Communications undertook to promote government action, either through its own initiatives or by supporting the efforts of other ministries. As everyone may have noticed, that did not prevent the state-owned media from opening up to the opposition. In the immediate future, other local rural radio stations will be opened with the assistance of UNESCO. The Comsat project will be completed, the IVORIAN PRESS AGENCY revitalized, the new Higher Advertisement Council set up, and the news rooms rehabilitated. [passage omitted]

Our country deserved not only congratulations but also a high level of esteem and the active support of international organizations and governments of friendly countries. Cote d'Ivoire is once more cited as a model on our continent.

I have paid well-deserved tribute to our government and the public service which proved that it is through hard work and coordinated effort that goals are achieved, and that what originally appears impossible attained, even though certain circumstances sometimes worked to our favor. However, our resources which are still very meager did not allow us to advance in all spheres the way we would have wanted to. Even though I could have cited many other areas, I am thinking here particularly of the security problem, which is of direct interest to each of us and constitutes a key development factor. We will step up our efforts in this area as our resources grow. Several lapses are still conspicuous, and will diminish gradually. [passage omitted]

The first steps are always the most difficult to take. We have proved our ability to take them. We have still greater efforts to make, but if this admirable solidarity we display is maintained at all costs we will progress at an increasingly faster rate. The very important prospects held out by gold, nickel, oil, and gas—to mention only the latest—are based on very solid realities. They will give impetus to the economy as a whole. Let us work together so that this may come about sooner rather than later.

I have not said that we should exclude dancing, or even discussion, from our daily life. These are aspects of life typical of our society, which play a role in our culture. But let us put these things where they reasonably belong in terms of priority. I wish wholeheartedly that this national day celebration be a great moment of relaxation in your homes, and that it consolidate in each of us the

hope we all cherish of a bright future for our Ivorian community, a community that is radiant and generous to all. Long live Cote d'Ivoire. [national anthem]

Ghana

Resumption of Liberian Talks Postponed Again

AB1212102494 Paris AFP in English 1003 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Accra, Dec 12 (AFP)—Liberian peace talks scheduled to resume in Accra Monday [12 December] have been postponed as Ghanaian peacebrokers try to ensure that parties are willing to compromise on disputes that wrecked November's month-long peace bid, a Foreign Ministry official here said.

Consultations are continuing and delegates have not been "called back yet", the official said. He could not say when the talks might resume.

"We are trying to do our best to narrow the areas of disagreement. We want them to come to Accra without the aim of sticking to their old positions," he added.

The talks were suspended on November 29 amid wrangling over power-sharing, as Ghana's President Jerry Rawling gave the parties 12 days to try to resolve their differences.

Late last week sources in both Accra and Monrovia said delegates still expected them to resume on December 12.

During the weekend a high-ranking Ghanaian delegation visited neighbouring Burkina, where it met National Patriotic Front (NPFL) leader Charles Taylor and held talks with Burkina's President Blaise Compaore.

Taylor was the only warlord absent from the last round of talks, which Rawlings brokered as current chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Leading the delegation was Ghanaian council of state member and close Rawlings adviser Captain Kojo Tsikata.

Also in the party were Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Ibn Chambas and Army Chief of Staff Brigadier Francis Agyemfra.

Chambas was expected Monday to leave for Liberia.

According to official sources, Taylor said in Ouagadougou he would be willing to come to Accra in person should the talks resume. Rival factions complained angrily about Taylor's absence from the last round of talks, where he was represented by a delegation led by ally Momolu Sirleaf.

According to press reports, the possibility of reconvening the talks in Monrovia has been looked at.

Nigeria

Constitutional Conference Meets Under Tension

Rejects Creating New States

AB0512201094 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Constitutional Conference has rejected the creation of the 14 new states recommended by its committee for the creation of new states and local governments. At its sitting in Abuja today, the house said it had no powers to peg the number or mention which new state should be created by the government. The conference pointed that it could only draw up criteria for the creation of new states and local governments, while all requests would be submitted to government for consideration based on the recommended criteria.

Our correspondent reports that the conference became rowdy by those who wanted the committee recommendation adopted and those who opposed it. When the debate became heated the chairman proposed the setting up of a committee to resolve the issue and report back tomorrow why the house rejected the proposal. After a decision had been taken in favor of drawing up only the criteria, Justice Karibi-Whyte had to adjourn sitting for 30 minutes for tempers to cool down before the business of the day could continue.

Recommends Military End Rule

AB0612161294 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Constitutional Conference has recommended that military rule should terminate in Nigeria on 1 January 1996. The recommendation was adopted after a debate on a motion for an amendment of the report of the committee on political transition. The conference also adopted the amendment proposed by Dr. Sule Udoma enjoining the Provisional Ruling Council, PRC, to draw up a transitional timetable which will lead to the swearing-in of an elected president on 1 January 1996.

Further on Ending Military Rule

AB0612163494 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Abuja, Dec 6 (AFP)—Nigeria's military junta should hand over to civilian rule on January 1, 1996, the constitutional conference created by the junta recommended Tuesday [6 December], according to sources close to the conference.

The conference in plenary session effectively halved the recommendation for a two-year transition period contained in a report by one of the conference's committees.

The political transition committee had recommended that during the transition a power-sharing government would begin work from the date the constitutional conference submits its final report to the junta. Military ruler General Sani Abacha said when he set up the conference in June that it would decide when civilian rule would resume.

Abacha's junta itself appointed 96 of the 365 delegates to the conference. The others were elected, but the vote was massively boycotted by the opposition and human rights movements, which dismissed the assembly as a farce.

Conference delegates debating the report here also threw out the report's recommendation that members of the conference could take part in the power-sharing government envisaged in the report.

The concept and structure of a power-sharing interim government was due to be debated by the conference on Wednesday.

The constitutional conference is scheduled to end its work on Thursday, but some committees had still to submit their reports to the plenary session for debate.

The political transition committee declared that a "cooling-off" period of between 12 and 18 months would be required to achieve a reasonable level of national reconciliation, during which a free and fair election would be held. [passage omitted]

The transition committee abstained from preparing a precise time-table for the stages of transition but listed some political activities that should be carried out during that period, the source said. These included national reconciliation, presentation and implementation of the conference report, the promulgation of a new constitution, the formation of political parties and the creation of new states. Nigeria is currently a federation of 30 states and the federal capital territory (FCT).

Abacha's junta has scrapped all Nigeria's existing democratic institutions including the elected parliament, together with the two political parties that contested general and presidential elections.

Transition committee chairman, Barnabas Gemade, said Monday that it recommended a joint government of military and civilians because it would be impossible to exclude the military who created the conference in the first place.

Gemade was a works and housing minister under the regime of General Ibrahim Babangida, whose junta annulled the 1993 poll although international observers billed it free and fair, and then installed a short-lived unelected civilian administration.

Abacha at the weekend told the foreign diplomatic community that his regime was waiting for the report of the conference to announce the second phase of the military political programme, due to begin with the lifting of the ban on political activity early next year.

Committee To Collate Recommendations

AB0812162594 Paris AFP in English 1617 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abuja, Dec 8 (AFP)—The national constitutional conference set up by Nigeria's military rulers ended its session Thursday [8 December] and will announce plans for a new constitution in January, official sources said.

The conference was set up by military ruler General Sani Abacha to agree a new constitution for the country which has endured 24 years of military rule in the 34 years since independence from Britain.

Critics of Abacha, who seized power in a bloodless coup in November 1993, boycotted elections to the conference and dismiss it as a charade, claiming it is aimed at gulling Nigeria's Western supporters into believing that the country is returning to democracy.

Official sources here Thursday said however the conference delegates, one third of whom are government appointees, will meet as planned in plenary session on January 9 to announce their plans for a new constitution.

A special committee of the conference has been tasked with drawing together the recommendations so far adopted by the conference and working them into a constitution.

The 31-strong committee is led by Mamman Nasir, conference deputy chairman.

Debates on the adoption of the new constitution would be expected to last for three weeks, starting from January 9.

The draft then agreed would be sent to the provisional council set up by the military rulers.

The last debates at the conference covered ways of sharing out federal revenue among the 30 states of Nigeria.

On Tuesday, the delegates set January 1, 1996 as the date for a transition of power from military to civilian rule.

General Abacha, a former defence minister, has repeatedly promised to hand over to civilian rule.

Abacha seized power in November from a civilian caretaker administration put in place by the military in June after then military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida annulled the results of presidential elections.

Since coming to power, Abacha closed all democratic assemblies, shut down opposition newspapers and has arrested hundreds of pro-democracy activists including the presumed winner of the June 1993 presidential elections, Moshood Abiola.

Critics of the regime, including Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, have called for sweeping international sanctions against Nigeria.

Adopts Provision in 89 Constitution

AB0912080094 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The National Constitutional Conference today adopted the existing provision contained in the 1989 Constitution as regards the creation of states and local governments. This was as a result of the conference's rejection of the report of the subcommittee appointed to formulate an acceptable criteria for the creation of states and local governments. Correspondent Yusuf Adi reports:

[Begin Adi recording] The report of an investigation committee on allegations leveled against members of the Committee on Economy, Population, and Revenue Generation: Presenting the report, Malam Ibrahim Sako from Niger State said, after series of interrogations, reports, and evidences received and considered, the chairman of the committee, Chief Lambad Umecha, and all the members were found not guilty of alleged wrongdoings. Chief Umecha and committee members were alleged to have sought loans and contracts from the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission, OMPADEC, before making recommendations in their report to the conference. Meanwhile, the plenary session could not reach a consensus after deliberating on report of the subcommittee on the criteria for the creation of states and local governments presented by Mr. Paul Onogo from Benue State. Delegates voted in favor of the provisions as contained in the 1979 and 89 Constitutions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Election Commission Views Resources for Elections

AB0612175794 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Electoral Commission [NEC] says the partial lifting of the ban on politics and the progress so far made by the Constitutional Conference call for the mobilization of resources for elections that will follow. The director general of the commission, Alhaji Mohamed Ali, made the remark in Ilorin while addressing NEC staff in Kwara State. Abdul Aziz Oladomoye telephoned this report from Ilorin:

[Begin Oladomoye recording] Alhaji Mohamed Ali, who was in Kwara State in continuation of his inspection tour of NEC offices in the country, expressed dismay at the activities of some staff of the commission who, he said, had been (?found to be) leaking classified information to the press and warned that this practice must stop.

The administrative secretary of the commission in Kwara State, Mr. Sebu Adiebu, told the director general that the NEC in the state was facing a lot of problems. These, he said, include lack of permanent offices in four of the 12 local government areas of the state. He added that there was also the problem of lack of furniture in the commission's offices in the other eight local government

areas. Mr. Adiebu urged the director general to look into ways of solving the problem of mobility by providing funds for the rehabilitation of broken down vehicles without which, he said, the commission in the state could not carry out its assignment efficiently. The administrative secretary stressed the need to organize training courses like seminars and workshops for electoral officers. This, he said, was to allow for uniform application of directives from the NEC headquarters. [end recording]

Newspaper Returns to Circulation After Ban

AB1212124594 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, Dec 12 (AFP)—The independent PUNCH daily, banned by Nigerian military regime for six months, returned to the street Monday [12 December] with a pledged to remain committed to "truth" and "balance".

Last September, General Sani Abacha's junta promulgated a series of anti-media decrees, under which the publications of three major press groups were banned for an initial renewable period of six months.

The three were the CONCORD group, owned by Chief Moshood Abiola, currently detained in Abuja on charges of treason, the PUNCH group and the GUARDIAN group, owned by Alex Ibru, Abacha's own internal affairs minister.

On its return, PUNCH said in an editorial that it would maintain its "commitment to the ideals of truth, balance and concern for the common good".

The government explained that it banned the newspapers for activities against the security of the nation. The move was part of an ongoing series of draconian measures against the press, the pro-democracy movement and the courts.

Abiola was jailed in June after he declared himself head of state and armed forces chief a year after a presidential election he was presumed to have won before the outcome was voided by the previous junta.

Abacha's regime initially accused PUNCH and CONCORD of allowing their premises to be used for storing arms, an allegation which they have denied.

Since the ban was clamped on the three press groups, many individuals, human rights organisations and the Nigeria Union of Journalists have called for their reopening.

While the ban on PUNCH and CONCORD took effect from June 10, that of the GUARDIAN took effect from August 14.

Since the closure of the newspaper establishments, the entrances to their premises have been sealed off by armed policemen.

New Political Association Formed in Abuja*AB0812141094 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 0900 GMT 8 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new political association called the All-Nigeria Congress, ANC, has been formed in Abuja, the Federal Territory. Addressing a press conference, the pro tempore chairman, Chief (Sunday Awoniyi), said the association was the result of several consultations among the political class aimed at sinking personal and political differences for social political and economic development of the nation. The association, he said, will address the problems of the nation through political reconciliation, economic reconstruction, and social redirection.

Chief (Awoniyi) said because of the heavy price the country was paying for the political experiment of recent past, the association would avoid mistakes of the past. These include politics of winner-takes-all, politics of exclusion, and cash-and-carry politics. He explained that no Nigerian groups would be excluded from power or public office by the ANC. Some of the personalities at the meeting include Alhaji Umaru Shinkafi, Chief Peter Odili, Chief (Nufebe Inna), Chief Ayo Ogunlade, Alhaji Lena Jubrilu, Abdulhamid Kusamoto, and Alhaji Aminu Wali. Others include Malam Adamu Ciroma, Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyawu, Chief Emeka Ojukwu, Alhaji Zaramanga Tukur, and General Shehu Yar'Adua.

Unions Demand 300 Percent Pay Hike*AB0912172094 Paris AFP in English 1655 GMT 9 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, Dec 9 (AFP)—Restless Nigerian unions have demanded a 300 percent across the board pay hike for workers hit by the effects of rocketing fuel prices, press reports said Friday [9 December].

Representatives of the 41 industrial unions affiliated to the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) warned in a statement Thursday that they should not be held responsible "for any reaction" if the government failed to discuss the impact of a 200 percent increase in the price of petroleum products since October.

Military leader General Sani Abacha had yet to carry through with his promise last October 4 to institute relief measures to palliate the effect of the hike, the statement said.

"The hardship of most Nigerians tend to confirm that government intervention in the NLC was to enable it to pursue economic and social policies that will further marginalise and impoverish the working masses of this country", said the statement.

The military government last August dissolved the leadership of the NLC and two powerful oil unions, accusing them of making political demands and embarking on an illegal strike which badly affected the nation's vital oil sector.

A strike by the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PEN-GASSAN) almost completely paralysed the economy in July and August.

The oil workers had demanded the immediate release of Chief Moshood Abiola, who is widely believed to have won last year's June 12 presidential election.

He is currently being held, in poor health, in Abuja on charges of treason, having been arrested for declaring himself president on the anniversary of the poll, which was annulled by the outgoing military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida.

The government later appointed administrators to run the affairs of the affected unions.

Government To Settle 'Huge' Debt to Russia*AB0712135394 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 6 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of power and steel, Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu, has assured the Russian Government of Nigeria's commitment to the completion and commissioning of the Ajaokuta Steel Complex in 1995. Alhaji Bashir gave the assurance when he played host to the Russian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign economic relations, Mr. Oleg Davydov. He thanked the delegation for their patience and understanding over the delayed takeoff of the project, adding that the Federal Government is doing all it can to settle the huge debts owed the Russians.

Russia To Cooperate in Oil, Mineral Sectors*AB0512205494 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 5 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria and the Russian Federation are to cooperate in the areas of crude oil, natural gas, and technical mineral development. The minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Chief Don Etiebet, disclosed this today after discussions with the visiting deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation in Lagos.

He said Russia will provide technical expertise in the production of hydrocarbons and adequate technology in the exploration and exploitation of the nation's solid mineral base. Chief Etiebet said that since Russia was an oil-producing nation, the two countries should try to cooperate in ensuring the development of hydrocarbons, particularly to become a mineral deposit. [sentence as heard] Earlier the Russian deputy prime minister had said that his country was willing to assist Nigeria in the development of her cooperative knowledge for crude oil and gas production.

Sierra Leone

Government, RUF Meet; RUF Head Said Replaced

LD0812173994 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The government and the rebels in Sierra Leone have opened up a dialogue for the first time, according to the Defense Ministry in Freetown. Representatives of the government and a delegation of the Revolutionary United Front, the RUF, met on 4 December. Ghislaine Dupont reports:

[Dupont] The government delegation and that of the RUF rebels met on a bridge situated near the estuary of the Mano River, in the far south of the country, in the border region between Sierra Leone and Liberia. However, rebel leader Corporal Foday Sankoh did not take part in the meeting. Yesterday, a Freetown weekly claimed that the corporal had been replaced as head of the RUF by a soldier of the former regime, which is in exile in Guinea since the coup d'etat in which President Momoh was overthrown in April 1992.

These first talks were described as frank and friendly and apparently concerned the establishment of a cease-fire. On 24 November General Strasser's government issued a call for dialogue for the first time, but setting as preconditions for any negotiations that the RUF hold a cease-fire and free the two British hostages whom it has been holding since the beginning of November. So far the rebels have rejected these conditions. They are still demanding arms and medical supplies in exchange for the release of the two aid workers.

Government Spokesman on Talks

AB0912213094 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Dec 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There was a beautiful breakthrough this week in settling Sierra Leone's civil war. Since 1991 government forces have been fighting an at times brutal war against rebels of the Revolutionary Front, RUF, but in recent weeks radio messages have been passed between the two sides. Captain Strasser's government has offered conditions for peace, among them that the RUF should become a political party, the two British PSO [expansion unknown] hostages be released, and that the killings should stop. Then last weekend, representatives of the two sides met in the middle of the Mano River Bridge near the Liberian border for six hours of talks. They apparently went well, with talk of a cease-fire. The rebels went off to take the minutes back to RUF leader Foday Sankoh for approval.

On the line to Freetown, Josephine Hazely asked Aburahmane Camara, spokesman for the military government, if they had heard back from the rebels yet.

[Begin recording] [Camara] We haven't and we are still waiting for them. We are still waiting to hear from them.

[Hazely] You also talked about preconditions and the fact that you are having preconditions, does that not stifle for a start the progress of the talks?

[Camara] No. Not really, because you see we have first of all to establish that these rebels are very serious. We say among other things that there should be an immediate and conditional cease-fire, and this should assume some permanence within a given time frame. Of course, they have to denounce terrorism and banditry. They have also to release people they are holding as hostages.

[Hazely] Is it your impression then that the representatives at the talks were not serious in their intent?

[Camara] No, we are not saying that. We are just trying to make sure that we are talking business and doing business with the right people.

[Hazely] What was the atmosphere like at the talks? In fact, were you yourself there?

[Camara] No, I wasn't there but I had reports that it was a meeting of friends and it was cordial and there was enthusiasm on either side. Of course, the indication was that these rebels are tired, are fed up. This proves the point that they have been waging a senseless war.

[Hazely] But a very serious one that has threatened your government surely.

[Camara] Well, not only the government, the country, the very fabric of society.

[Hazely] So you do recognize the RUF rebels as a serious threat to Sierra Leone.

[Camara] Well, the evidence is there. They have wrecked entire communities, they have brought untold hardship to people. Look at what they have done to our economy. That is evidence enough. They are certainly a threat to development.

[Hazely] So what is the next step. What, as far as your government can see is the step forward?

[Camara] Well, we continue the negotiations and of course we don't rule out other options.

[Hazely] So you will talk as you fight. You will not call a cease-fire either.

[Camara] Well, we are waiting. The cease-fire will come and if it is acceptable then we will observe it, but as things are at the moment we are pursuing all options.
[end recording]

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